

application of section 4975 (a) and (b) of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1) (A) through (E) of the Code.

In that notice, the Department invited interested persons to submit written comments and any requests for a public hearing on the proposed exemption.

As explained in the notice of pendency, the proposed exemption was requested in an application filed on behalf of Northwest Airlines, Inc. (Northwest) as plan sponsor and named fiduciary to the Plans, pursuant to section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 29 CFR part 2570, subpart B at 55 FR 32836, 32847 (August 10, 1990). If granted, the proposed exemption would permit: (1) The in-kind contribution(s) of the common stock of either Pinnacle Airlines, Inc. or Pinnacle Airlines Corp. (Pinnacle Stock) to the Plans by Northwest, a party in interest with respect to such Plans; (2) the holding of the Pinnacle Stock by the Plans; (3) the sale of the Pinnacle Stock by the Plans to Northwest; and (4) the acquisition, holding, and exercise by the Plans of a put option (the Put Option) granted to the Plans by Northwest.

In response to the solicitation of comments from interested persons, the Department has received over 500 letters, e-mails, faxes or phone calls, of which more than 300 request that a hearing be held on the proposed exemption. The commenters expressed concern generally about the effect of the proposed exemption on the Plans. The concerns expressed generally related to the proposed contribution of Pinnacle Stock instead of a cash contribution to the Plans; the value and method of valuation of the Pinnacle Stock; the effects of the proposed transactions on the Plans; and the adequacy of the proposed safeguards that are intended to protect the Plans' interests.

The submissions received by the Department are available for public inspection in the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-1513, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

In view of the comments requesting a hearing on the proposed exemption, the Department has decided to hold a hearing on the proposed exemption on May 5 and, if necessary, May 6, 2003 beginning at 9:30 a.m., EST, in Rooms N-3437 A & B at the Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Any interested person who wishes to be assured of an opportunity to present oral comments at the hearing should submit by 3:30 p.m., EST, April 26,

2003: (1) A written request to be heard; and (2) five copies of an outline of the topics to be discussed. The request to be heard and accompanying outline should be sent to: Office of Exemption Determinations, Room N-5649, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, "Attention: Northwest Exemption Hearing." Copies of your mailed submission may be sent by electronic mail to moffittb@pwba.dol.gov.

The Department will prepare an agenda indicating the order of presentation of oral comments. In the absence of special circumstances, each commenter will be allotted ten minutes in which to complete his or her presentation. Information about the agenda may be obtained on or after April 30, 2003 by contacting Wendy M. McCollough or Christopher Motta, Office of Exemption Determinations, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone (202) 693-8540 (this is not a toll-free number). Those individuals who make oral comments at the hearing should be prepared to answer questions regarding their comments. The hearing will be transcribed.

Notice to Interested Persons

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of publication of the Notice of Public Hearing (the Notice) in the **Federal Register**, Northwest shall provide notice to all participants of the Plans (including active employees, separated vested participants and retirees) by mailing first class a photocopy of the Notice. Northwest shall also provide the Notice by first class mailing to the representatives of the unions that represent employees of Northwest who currently participate in the Plans.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on May 5 and if necessary, May 6, 2003, regarding a proposed exemption from certain prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and from certain taxes imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for transactions involving the Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Salaried Employees, the Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Pilot Employees, and the Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Contract Employees.

The hearing will be held, beginning at 9:30 a.m., EST, in Rooms N-3437 A & B at the Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Signed at Washington, DC this 4th day of March 2003.

Ivan L. Strasfeld,

Director, Office of Exemption, Determinations, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 03-5613 Filed 3-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Surplus Area Classification Under Executive Orders 12073 and 10582; Correction

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: In notice document Vol. 68 No. 23 page 5751 and page 5763 in the issue of Tuesday, February 4, 2003, make the following correction: On page 5751 in the first column, for Arkansas following Monroe County, include Newton County and in the second column following Monroe County, include Newton County. On page 5763 for North Dakota in the first column following Benson County, include McLean County and in the second column following Benson County include McLean County.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Dais, Acting Division Chief, U.S. Employment Service, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room C 4512, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-3046 (this not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Labor regulations implementing Executive Orders 12073 and 10582 are set forth at 20 CFR part 654, subparts A and B. These regulations require the Assistant Secretary of Labor to classify jurisdictions are labor surplus areas pursuant to the criteria specified in the regulations and to publish annually a list of labor surplus areas. Pursuant to those regulations the Assistant Secretary of Labor hereby published the annual list of labor surplus areas, on February 4, 2003 at 68 FR 5748. However, due to problems with the electronic file, the notice included two omissions. For the convenience of the public the Labor Surplus Area list is posted on the Internet at the following addresses: www.doleta.gov and www.usworkforce.org. The Labor Surplus Area list will no longer be published in the *Area Trends*.