

Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415-3540;
and

Allison Eydt, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT:

Cyrus S. Benson, Team Leader, Publications Team, RIS Support Services, Support Group, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on—

Thursday, August 21, 2003,
Thursday, September 18, 2003,
Thursday, October 2, 2003.

The meetings will start at 10 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

This scheduled meeting will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meeting either the labor members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the

matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5538, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415 (202) 606-1500.

Dated: August 4, 2003.

Mary M. Rose,

*Chairperson, Federal Prevailing Rate
Advisory Committee.*

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Personnel Demonstration Project; Alternative Personnel Management System for the U.S. Department of Commerce

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of modification to the Department of Commerce Personnel Management Demonstration Project.

SUMMARY: Title VI of the Civil Service Reform Act, now codified in 5 U.S.C. chapter 47, authorizes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to conduct demonstration projects that experiment with new and different human resources management concepts to determine whether changes in policies and procedures result in improved Federal human resources management. On December 24, 1997, OPM approved a demonstration project covering several operating units of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC). In accordance with 5 CFR 470.315, this notice modifies the existing provisions for the assignment of augmented service

credit for reduction-in-force purposes under the performance appraisal system.

DATES: This notice modifying the DoC Demonstration Project is effective August 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Department of Commerce: Edward Liverani, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Room 5004, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-0272; Office of Personnel Management: Delmar D. White, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Room 6H31, Washington, DC 20415, (202) 606-1578.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

OPM approved the Department of Commerce Demonstration Project and published the final plan in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, December 24, 1997, Volume 62, Number 247, part II. The project was implemented on March 29, 1998, and modified in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, September 30, 1999, Volume 64, Number 189 [Notices] [Page 52810-52812]. On February 14, 2003, OPM authorized an extension of the demonstration project to March 28, 2008, to provide time to test and evaluate the large number of innovations implemented under this project.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

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I. Executive Summary

The Department of Commerce Demonstration Project utilizes many features similar to those implemented by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Demonstration Project in 1988. The key features of the project involve increased delegation of authority and accountability to line managers, simplified classification and broad banding, pay for performance, hiring and pay-setting flexibilities, and modified reduction-in-force procedures. The DoC project is designed to test whether the innovations of the NIST project, which is now a permanent system, can be successful in other DoC environments. The participating organizations include the Technology Administration, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, and three units of the National Oceanic and