

Proposed Rules

Federal Register

Vol. 80, No. 108

Friday, June 5, 2015

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AN17

Prevailing Rate Systems; Special Wage
Schedules for U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers Flood Control Employees of
the Vicksburg District in Mississippi

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Office of Personnel
Management (OPM) is issuing a
proposed rule to establish special wage
schedules specific to nonsupervisory,

leader, and supervisory wage employees
of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(USACE) who work at flood control
dams (also known as reservoir projects)
at the Vicksburg District of the
Mississippi Valley Division. The four
lakes of the District are currently in two
separate wage areas. The Department of
Defense (DOD) would be assigned lead
agency responsibility for establishing
and issuing these special wage
schedules. The special wage schedules
would be established at the same time
and with rates identical to the Memphis,
TN, appropriated fund Federal Wage
System (FWS) wage schedule.

DATES: We must receive comments on or
before July 6, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments,
identified by “RIN 3206-AN17,” using
any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: [http://
www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the
instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Brenda L. Roberts, Deputy
Associate Director for Pay and Leave,
Employee Services, U.S. Office of
Personnel Management, Room 7H31,

1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC
20415-8200.

Email: pay-leave-policy@opm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Madeline Gonzalez, by telephone at
(202) 606-2858 or by email at pay-leave-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OPM is
issuing a proposed rule to establish
special wage schedules for USACE
nonsupervisory, leader, and supervisory
wage employees who work at flood
control dams (also known as reservoir
projects) and whose duty station is
located at one of the lakes that comprise
the Vicksburg District of the Mississippi
Valley Division. DOD would be assigned
lead agency responsibility for
establishing and issuing these special
wage schedules. The special wage
schedules would be established at the
same time and with rates identical to
the Memphis, TN, appropriated fund
FWS wage schedule.

The Vicksburg District of the
Mississippi Valley Division is
comprised of the following four lakes:

Lakes	County	Wage area
Arkabutla Lake	Tate County, MS	Memphis, TN.
Enid Lake	Yalobusha County, MS	Northern Mississippi.
Grenada Lake	Grenada County, MS	Northern Mississippi.
Sardis Lake	Panola County, MS	Memphis, TN.

Grenada and Yalobusha Counties
have been defined to the area of
application of the Northern Mississippi
(previously called Columbus-Aberdeen,
MS) wage area since the FWS was
established in 1972. In 1978, OPM
redefined Tate County from the
Columbus-Aberdeen area of application
to the Memphis, TN, area of application.
In 1996, OPM added Grenada County to
the Northern Mississippi survey area. In
2011, OPM redefined Panola County
from the Northern Mississippi area of
application to the Memphis area of
application. Panola County is the
location of the District headquarters for
USACE employees of the four lake
projects.

At the request of the labor members
of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory
Committee (FPRAC), the Committee has
reexamined the definition of Grenada
and Yalobusha Counties to see if a
change in their definition is warranted.
During the review of this subject, the

Committee heard local testimony
indicating that there is considerable
workforce interaction between the four
lakes in the Vicksburg District and
presents a unique pay situation that is
detrimental to the efficient functioning
of the lake projects in the District.

Regulatory Criteria Under 5 CFR
532.211

OPM considers the following
regulatory criteria under 5 CFR 532.211
when defining FWS wage area
boundaries:

- (i) Distance, transportation facilities,
and geographic features;
- (ii) Commuting patterns; and
- (iii) Similarities in overall population,
employment, and the kinds and sizes of
private industrial establishments.

Except for the transportation facilities
and geographic features criteria, the
analysis of the regulatory criteria for
Grenada and Yalobusha Counties favors
the Northern Mississippi wage area.

Based on this analysis, OPM has
determined that Grenada and Yalobusha
Counties are appropriately defined to
the Northern Mississippi wage area.

Special Wage Schedules

Because there exists a unique
situation in the Vicksburg District to the
point that all four lakes may be
considered to be managed as one
installation, FPRAC recommended by
majority vote that DOD establish and
issue special wage schedules for USACE
employees whose duty station is located
in one of the lakes that comprise the
Vicksburg District of the Mississippi
Valley Division. OPM is proposing to
create a special wage schedule practice
in this unique circumstance as
recommended by FPRAC. The special
wage schedules would be established
using rates identical to the Memphis
appropriated fund FWS wage schedule.

These special wage schedules would
apply on the first day of the first

applicable pay period beginning on or after 60 days following publication of the final regulations. USACE employees with duty stations in one of the lakes of the Vicksburg District would transfer to the new special wage schedules on a step-by-step basis. No current employee will have his or her pay rate reduced as a result of implementing these new special wage schedules.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they would affect only Federal agencies and employees.

Executive Order 13563 and Executive Order 12866

This proposed rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with Executive Order 13563 and Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Katherine Archuleta,
Director.

Accordingly, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management is proposing to amend 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

■ 2. Subpart B is amended by adding § 532.289 to read as follows:

§ 532.289 Special Wage Schedules for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Employees of the Vicksburg District in Mississippi.

(a)(1) The Department of Defense will establish special wage schedules for wage employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who work at flood control dams (also known as reservoir projects) and whose duty station is located in one of the lakes that comprise the Vicksburg District of the Mississippi Valley Division.

(2) These special wage schedules will provide rates of pay for nonsupervisory, leader, and supervisory employees. These special schedule positions will be identified by pay plan codes XR (nonsupervisory), XT (leader), and XU (supervisory).

(b) The Vicksburg District of the Mississippi Valley Division is comprised of the following four lakes:

- (1) Grenada Lake in Grenada County, MS
- (2) Enid Lake in Yalobusha County, MS
- (3) Sardis Lake in Panola County, MS
- (4) Arkabutla Lake in Tate County, MS

(c) Special wage schedules shall be established at the same time and with rates identical to the Memphis, TN, appropriated fund wage schedule.

[FR Doc. 2015–13778 Filed 6–4–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–39–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 925

[Doc. No. AMS–FV–14–0049; FV14–925–3]

Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Proposed Amendments to Marketing Order

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This rulemaking invites comments on three proposed amendments to Marketing Order No. 925 (order), which regulates the handling of table grapes grown in a designated area of southeastern California. Two amendments are based on proposals made by the California Desert Grape Administrative Committee (Committee), which is responsible for the local administration of the order. These proposed amendments would increase term lengths for Committee members and alternates from one to four fiscal periods and would allow new members and alternates to agree to accept their nominations prior to selection. The proposals are intended to increase the Committee's effectiveness and bolster industry participation in Committee activities.

In addition to the Committee's proposals, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) proposes an amendment that would add authority for periodic continuance referenda to allow producers to indicate whether or not there exists continuing support for the order.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 4, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington,

DC 20250–0237; Fax: (202) 720–8938; or Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments should reference the document number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments submitted in response to this proposed rule will be included in the record and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made public on the internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Geronimo Quinones, Marketing Specialist, or Michelle P. Sharrow, Rulemaking Branch Chief, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; Telephone: (202) 720–2491, Fax: (202) 720–8938, or Email: Geronimo.Quinones@ams.usda.gov or Michelle.Sharrow@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jeffrey Smutny, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; Telephone: (202) 720–2491, Fax: (202) 720–8938, or Email: Jeffrey.Smutny@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposal is issued under Marketing Order No. 925, as amended (7 CFR part 925), regulating the handling of table grapes grown in a designated area of southeastern California, hereinafter referred to as the “order.” The order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), hereinafter referred to as the “Act.” Section 608c(17) of the Act and the applicable rules of practice and procedure governing the formulation of marketing agreements and orders (7 CFR part 900) authorizes amendment of the order through this informal rulemaking action. AMS will consider comments received in response to this rule, and based on all the information available, will determine if order amendment is warranted. If AMS determines amendment of the order is warranted, a subsequent proposed rule and referendum order would be issued and producers would be allowed to vote for or against the proposed order amendments. AMS would then issue a final rule effectuating any amendments