

(4) Any other information which indicates that the organization has as a principal function the offering of professional advisory, research, educational, or development services, or related services to governments or universities concerned with public management.

(c) Federally funded research and development centers which appear on a master list maintained by the National Science Foundation are eligible to participate in the program.

(d) An organization denied certification by an agency may request reconsideration by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

§ 334.104 What is the duration of an assignment in this program?

(a) The head of a Federal agency, or his or her designee, may make an assignment for up to 2 years, which may be extended for up to 2 more years if the parties agree.

(b) A Federal agency may not send an employee on an assignment if that person is a Federal employee and has participated in this program for more than a total of 6 years during his or her Federal career. OPM may waive this provision upon the written request of the agency head, or his or her designee.

(c) A Federal agency may not send or receive an employee on an assignment if the employee has participated in this program for 4 continuous years without at least a 12-month return to duty with the organization from which the employee was originally assigned.

§ 334.105 Must Federal employees return to the Government at the end of an assignment?

(a) A Federal employee assigned under this subchapter must agree, as a condition of accepting an assignment, to serve with the Federal Government upon completion of the assignment for a period equal to the length of the assignment.

(b) If the employee fails to carry out this agreement, he or she must reimburse the Federal agency for its share of the costs of the assignment (exclusive of salary and benefits). The head of the Federal agency, or his or her designee, may waive this reimbursement for good and sufficient reason.

§ 334.106 Is there a requirement for a written agreement?

(a) Before the assignment begins, the assigned employee and the Federal agency, the State, local, or Indian tribal government, institution of higher education, or other eligible organization shall enter into a written agreement recording the obligations and

responsibilities of the parties, as specified in 5 U.S. Code 3373–3375.

(b) Federal agencies must maintain a copy of each assignment agreement form as well as any modification to the agreement.

§ 334.107 What are the rules for terminating an assignment?

(a) An assignment may be terminated at any time at the request of the Federal agency or the State, local, or Indian tribal government, institution of higher education, or other organization participating in this program. Where possible, the party terminating the assignment prior to the agreed upon date should provide 30-days advance notice along with a statement of reasons to the other parties to the agreement.

(b) Federal assignees continue to encumber the positions they occupied prior to assignment, and the position is subject to any personnel actions that might normally occur. At the end of the assignment, the employee must be allowed to resume the duties of his/her position or must be reassigned to another position of like pay and grade.

(c) An assignment is terminated automatically when the employer/employee relationship ceases to exist between the assignee and his/her original employer.

(d) The Office of Personnel Management shall have the authority to direct Federal agencies to terminate assignments or take other corrective actions when assignments are found to have been made in violation of the requirements of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act and/or this part.

§ 334.108 Are any reports required with this program?

A Federal agency which assigns an employee to, or receives an employee from, a State, local, or Indian tribal government, institution of higher education or other eligible organization in accordance with this part shall submit to the Office of Personnel Management such reports as the Office of Personnel Management may request.

[FR Doc. 03–21417 Filed 8–21–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–43–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206–AJ78

Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the North Dakota and Duluth, MN, Appropriated Fund Wage Areas

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a proposed rule that would redefine the North Dakota and Duluth, MN, Federal Wage System (FWS) appropriated fund wage areas. The proposed rule would redefine Clearwater and Mahnommen Counties and the White Earth Indian Reservation portion of Becker County from the North Dakota FWS wage area to the Duluth FWS wage area. These changes would assign all blue-collar Federal employees working in Indian Health Service facilities in northern Minnesota to one FWS wage schedule.

DATES: We must receive comments on or before September 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Donald J. Winstead, Deputy Associate Director for Pay and Performance Policy, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415–8200, e-mail payleave@opm.gov, or FAX: (202) 606–4264.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark A. Allen at (202) 606–2848, e-mail maallen@opm.gov, or FAX: (202) 606–4264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is proposing to redefine the North Dakota and Duluth, MN, Federal Wage System (FWS) appropriated fund wage areas. This proposed rule would redefine Clearwater and Mahnommen Counties and the White Earth Indian Reservation portion of Becker County from the North Dakota FWS wage area to the Duluth FWS wage area. We are taking this action because FWS employees who work for closely related Bemidji Area Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities in northern Minnesota are currently in two separate FWS wage areas. The Department of Health and Human Services has requested that OPM redefine the North Dakota and Duluth wage areas so that blue-collar employees of its IHS facilities in northern Minnesota would be covered by one wage schedule.

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.

Based on our analysis of the regulatory criteria for defining appropriated fund FWS wage areas, we find that the criteria for Clearwater, Mahnomen, and Becker Counties do not strongly favor defining the counties to one FWS wage area more than another. However, the IHS medical centers in northern Minnesota are in an unusual situation in that they are in a rural area that is economically and socially integrated by the local reservation system and not strongly integrated with the labor markets in either the North Dakota or Duluth FWS survey areas. It is desirable to have IHS employees aligned under one wage schedule because the area and population serviced by the medical centers serves as a unique labor market. However, there is insufficient private sector industry and FWS employment in northern Minnesota to meet OPM's regulatory requirements for establishing a separate FWS wage area for the IHS employees there. Because it is not feasible to establish a separate FWS wage area for IHS employees in northern Minnesota, the FWS employment locations must be defined to the area of application of an existing FWS wage area.

Analysis of OPM's regulatory criteria for defining FWS wage areas shows that the majority of IHS employment locations under the Bemidji Area in northern Minnesota are more closely aligned with the Duluth wage area than the North Dakota wage area. The White Earth, Red Lake, and Cass Lake Indian Health Centers are part of the Bemidji Area but their associated reservations are not entirely within the Duluth wage area. The White Earth Indian Reservation occupies the northern portion of Becker County and most of Mahnomen County, while the Red Lake and Cass Lake Indian Reservations occupy the northern portions of Clearwater County. We therefore propose that Clearwater and Mahnomen Counties be redefined from the North Dakota wage area to the Duluth wage area. We also propose that the White Earth Indian Reservation portion of Becker County be redefined from the North Dakota wage area to the Duluth wage area.

There are 11 IHS employees in Becker County, and none in Clearwater or Mahnomen Counties. There are several FWS employees stationed in the part of Becker County that we do not propose to define to the Duluth wage area. We believe the mixed nature of the regulatory analysis findings for Becker County indicates that the non-IHS employment locations in Becker County should remain appropriately defined to the North Dakota wage area. The affected IHS employees in Becker County would be placed on the wage schedule for the Duluth wage area after we publish final regulations in the **Federal Register**.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, reviewed and recommended these changes by consensus. Based on its review of the regulatory criteria for defining FWS wage areas, FPRAC recommended no other changes in the geographic definitions of the North Dakota and Duluth wage areas.

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.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

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

Key Coles James,

Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management proposes 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. In appendix C to subpart B, the wage area listing for the State of Minnesota is amended by revising the listing for Duluth; and for the State of North Dakota, to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

* * * * *

MINNESOTA
Duluth
Survey Area

Minnesota:

Carlton
St. Louis
Wisconsin:
Douglas

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

Minnesota:
Aitkin
Becker (Including the White Earth Indian Reservation portion only)
Beltrami
Cass
Clearwater
Cook
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Koochiching
Lake
Lake of the Woods
Mahnomen
Pine
Wisconsin:
Ashland
Bayfield
Burnett
Iron
Sawyer
Washburn

* * * * *

NORTH DAKOTA *Survey Area*

North Dakota:
Burleigh
Cass
Grand Forks
McLean
Mercer
Morton
Oliver
Traill
Ward
Minnesota:
Clay
Polk

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

North Dakota:
Adams
Barnes
Benson
Billings
Bottineau
Bowman
Burke
Cavalier
Dickey
Divide
Dunn
Eddy
Emmons
Foster
Golden Valley
Grant
Griggs
Hettinger
Kidder
La Moure
Logan
McHenry
McIntosh
McKenzie
Mountrail
Nelson
Pembina

Pierce
 Ramsey
 Ransom
 Renville
 Richland
 Rolette
 Sargent
 Sheridan
 Sioux
 Slope
 Stark
 Steele
 Stutsman
 Towner
 Walsh
 Wells
 Williams

Minnesota:

Becker (Excluding the White Earth Indian
 Reservation portion)
 Kittson
 Marshall
 Norman
 Otter Tail
 Pennington
 Red Lake
 Roseau
 Wilkin

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 03-21415 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003-NM-159-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700 & 701) Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700 & 701) series airplanes, that currently requires a revision to the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to prohibit operations into known or forecast icing conditions under certain conditions. That AD also requires an inspection to detect damage of the wing anti-ice (WAI) ducts to determine if the external shrouds of the ducts are open or cracked, and replacement of any damaged duct with a new duct or a duct with the same part number, and an optional terminating action. This action would require accomplishment of the previously optional terminating action for the AFM

revision and inspection. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent the WAI ducts from collapsing, cracking, or rupturing, which could cause leakage of hot air in the under-floor pressurized area of the fuselage when the anti-ice system is turned on. Such leakage of hot air results in insufficient heat for the anti-ice system and consequent aerodynamic degradation. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition. **DATES:** Comments must be received by September 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NM-159-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: 9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2003-NM-159-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Bombardier, Inc., Canadair, Aerospace Group, P.O. Box 6087, Station Centreville, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3G9, Canada. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, New York Aircraft Certification Office, 10 Fifth Street, Third Floor, Valley Stream, New York; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Parrillo, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Flight Test Branch, ANE-172, FAA, New York Aircraft Certification Office, 10 Fifth Street, Third Floor, Valley Stream, New York 11581; telephone (516) 256-7505; fax (516) 568-2716.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address

specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue.

For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.

- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.

- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2003-NM-159-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NM-159-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

On June 5, 2003, the FAA issued AD 2003-12-06, amendment 39-13191 (68 FR 35152, June 12, 2003), applicable to certain Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700 & 701) series airplanes, to require a revision to the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to prohibit operations into known or forecast icing conditions under certain conditions. That AD also requires an inspection to detect damage of the wing anti-ice (WAI) ducts to determine if the external shrouds of the ducts are open or cracked, and replacement of any damaged duct with a new duct or a duct with the same part number, and an optional terminating action. That action was prompted by several reports of failure of the WAI ducts. The