

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Staff Assistant (Scheduling) to the Director. Effective March 12, 2002.
Special Assistant to the Director, Human Resources Division. Effective March 27, 2002.

General Services Administration

Director of External Affairs to the Associate Administrator for Communications. Effective March 5, 2002.

Deputy Associate Administrator for Communications to the Associate Administrator for Communications. Effective March 7, 2002.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator. Effective March 19, 2002.

International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico

Confidential Assistant to the Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Effective March 22, 2002.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Writer-Editor to the Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs. Effective March 4, 2002.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs. Effective March 5, 2002.

Senior Policy Analyst to the Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs. Effective March 7, 2002.

Industrial Relations Specialist to the Assistant Administrator for External Affairs. Effective March 27, 2002.

Media Relations Specialist to the Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs. Effective March 27, 2002.

National Endowment for the Arts

Special Assistant to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Effective March 19, 2002.

National Transportation Safety Board

Director of Government and Industry Affairs to the Chairman. Effective March 12, 2002.

Executive Assistant to the Chairman. Effective March 29, 2002.

Office of Management and Budget

Legislative Assistant to the Associate Director for Legislative Affairs. Effective March 13, 2002.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Legislative Analyst to the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs. Effective March 18, 2002.

Special Assistant to the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy. Effective March 27, 2002.

Confidential Counsel to the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy. Effective March 27, 2002.

Office of Personnel Management

Special Assistant to the Deputy Director. Effective March 13, 2002.

Office of the United States Trade Representative

Special Textile Negotiator to the United States Trade Representative. Effective March 25, 2002.

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Staff. Effective March 29, 2002.

President's Commission on White House Fellowships

Education Director to the Executive Director, President's Commission of White House Fellowships. Effective March 19, 2002.

Selective Service System

Special Assistant to the Director of Selective Service. Effective March 27, 2002.

United States Tax Court

Secretary (Confidential Assistant) to the Judge. Effective March 26, 2002.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954-1958 Comp., P.218

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project; Department of Defense (DoD)

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

ACTION: Notice of amendment to this demonstration to make employees in the top broadband level of their career path eligible to receive a "very high" overall contribution score (OCS) and to reduce the minimum rating period under the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS) to 90 calendar days.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense (DoD), with the approval of OPM, may conduct a personnel demonstration project within DoD's civilian acquisition workforce and among those supporting personnel assigned to work directly with it. (See Section 4308 of the

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Pub. L. 104-106; 10 U.S.C.A. 1701 note), as amended by section 845 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Pub. L. 105-85)). This notice amends the project plan for this demonstration to (1) make employees in the top broadband level of their career path eligible to receive a "very high" overall contribution score (OCS) and (2) reduce the minimum rating period under the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS) to 90 consecutive calendar days.

DATES: This amendment is effective upon publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

DoD: Anthony D. Echols, Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project, 2001 North Beauregard Street, Suite 750, Alexandria, VA 22311, 703-681-3553.
OPM: Mary Lamary, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Room 7460, Washington, DC 20415, 202-606-2820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

OPM approved and published the project plan for the Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project in the **Federal Register** on January 8, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 5, part VII). An amendment was published in the May 21, 2001, **Federal Register**, Volume 66, Number 98 to (1) correct discrepancies in the list of occupational series included in the project and (2) authorize managers to offer a buy-in to Federal employees entering the project after initial implementation. This demonstration project involves hiring and appointment authorities, broadbanding, simplified classification, a contribution-based compensation and appraisal system, revised reduction-in-force procedures, academic degree and certificate training, and sabbaticals.

2. Overview

To recognize high contributors, the project plan incorporates "very high" scores for employees who are capped at the top of their broadband level. Each career path has a different "very high" score, as follows: 115 for Business Management and Technical Management Professional, 95 for Technical Management Support, and 70 for Administrative Support.

The project plan reserves "very high" scores for employees whose pay rate is at the maximum for their broadband level. Employees with lower pay rates are not eligible to receive the "very high" score that could place them in the

inappropriately compensated region below the rails, compensation category B. This produces unintended results. Specifically, employees whose salaries happen to be at the top of their broadband are eligible to receive higher contribution rating increase percentages than other employees in the same broadband. They would receive any payout in the form of a bonus, because their salaries were already at the top of the broadband.

The following explains how this unintended outcome occurs. Figure 2 in the demonstration project plan, titled "CCAS Compensation Categories," shows the rails for the normal pay range and the three resulting compensation categories: A, B, and C. The lower rail of the normal pay range intersects the vertical line representing a 100 score at a base salary equivalent to a GS-15, step 7.

Under the current project plan, employees with salaries equivalent to a GS-15, step 7 are not eligible to receive an overall contribution score (OCS) that would place them in the inappropriately compensated region below the rails, category B, because they are not eligible to receive the "very high" score of 115. Therefore, the highest contribution rating increase these employees can receive is 6 percent, the maximum percentage for the appropriately compensated region between the rails, category C. (See Table 6, Compensation Eligibility Chart, in the demonstration project plan which breaks out the contribution rating increase percentages by compensation category.)

Other employees with salaries at the GS-15, step 10 level (the top of broadband level IV of the Business Management and Technical Management Professional career path), however, are eligible to receive the "very high" OCS of 115. A 115 score would place them in the inappropriately compensated region below the rails, compensation category B. Therefore, these employees are eligible to receive a contribution rating increase up to 20 percent. In other words, this group of employees can receive a higher percentage increase than the first group, just because their salaries are at the maximum rate of the broadband.

This amendment eliminates the potential for such unintended outcomes by making all employees in the top broadband level of each career path eligible to receive "very high" scores and contribution rating increases of up to 20 percent, as shown in Table 6.

According to the project plan, if an employee has served under CCAS for less than six months, the rating official must wait for the subsequent annual

cycle to assess the employee. Experience gained during the project's operation reveals that a shorter minimum rating period would be beneficial. By instituting this change, more employees will receive ratings of record and be eligible for contribution rating increases and contribution awards. In addition, managers will not have to wait six months or longer to recognize employees' contributions. This notice changes the minimum rating period to 90 consecutive calendar days. It also requires that the first appraisal be rendered within 15 months of entering the demonstration project.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,
Director.

I. Executive Summary

The project was designed by a Process Action Team (PAT) under the authority of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, with the participation of and review by DoD and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The purpose of the project is to enhance the quality, professionalism, and management of the DoD acquisition workforce through improvements in the human resources management system.

II. Introduction

This demonstration project provides managers, at the lowest practical level, the authority, control, and flexibility they need to achieve quality acquisition processes and quality products. This project not only provides a system that retains, recognizes, and rewards employees for their contribution, but also supports their personal and professional growth.

A. Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to make all employees in the top broadband level of their career path eligible to receive a "very high" overall contribution score (OCS) and to reduce the minimum rating period under the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS) to 90 consecutive calendar days. Other provisions of the approved plan are unchanged. Pursuant to 5 CFR 470.315, changes are hereby made to the **Federal Register**, Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project; Department of Defense; Notice, Friday, January 8, 1999, Volume 64, Number 5, Part VII, pages 1473, 1474, 1476, and 1490.

B. Employee Notification and Collective Bargaining Requirements

The demonstration project program office shall notify employees of this

amendment by posting it on the demonstration project's web pages (http://www.acq.osd.mil/acqdemo/new_site). Participating organizations must fulfill any collective bargaining obligations to unions that represent employees covered by the demonstration.

III. Personnel System Changes

A. Overall Contribution Score (OCS)

Change the third sentence of Section III. D. 2 to read:

The horizontal axis spans from 0 to the maximum contribution score of 100, with a notional "very high" score of 115 for those employees in the top broadband level of their career path.

Change last sentence of Section III. D. 2., subparagraph 2 to read:

The same is true for the other two career paths: Technical Management Support with a "very high" score of 95 for employees in broadband level IV, and Administrative Support with a "very high" score of 70 for employees in broadband level III.

Change Section III. D. 3., paragraph 6 to read:

If on October 1, the employee has served under CCAS for less than ninety (90) consecutive calendar days, the rating official shall wait for the subsequent annual cycle to assess the employee. The first CCAS appraisal must be rendered within 15 months after entering the demonstration project.

Insert a new paragraph 7 as follows:

Employees who have served under CCAS for less than 90 consecutive calendar days shall not receive contribution rating increases or contribution awards for that cycle. However, their salaries shall be increased by the amount and at the time of the next General Schedule pay increase under 5 U.S.C. 5303.

In Section VIII A, delete paragraph 3, which contains an obsolete reference to the January 1999 General Schedule pay increase.

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BILLING CODE 6325-43-P

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

Briefing on Industry Mailing Practices

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice of briefing.

SUMMARY: Representatives from Publishers Clearing House will present a briefing on Thursday, May 2, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m., in the Postal Rate Commission's hearing room. The briefing will address the company's