

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

PLACER GOLD MINING SEASONAL EXEMPTION MADE FINAL

The seasonal exemption from the maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of the open-cut mining of placer gold in Alaska and in the States of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming was made final today by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. The application for the exemption was first made by the Arctic Circle Exploration Company and other placer gold operators some months ago and was the subject of a public hearing June 19 and 20 in Washington.

Announcement of the intention to grant the exemption was made in November at which time opportunity was given to file objections during a 15-day period. None having been made, today's action (Federal Register January 3, 1940) makes the exemption final.

Under the exemption granted, gold placer mining operators in the area covered are permitted to work their employees 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week for not more than 14 workweeks in the aggregate in any calendar year without the necessity of paying them time and one-half for overtime. The exemption does not affect the wage requirement that at least 30 cents an hour be paid.

The exemption covers the mining of placer gold from surface or open-cuts, which includes the extraction of such gold from pit, bank or marine deposits by hand or power methods, but does not embrace any underground operations. Approximately 50 per cent of the placer gold production in the continental United States, territories and possessions is produced in the area covered by the exemption.