

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

SEASONAL HOURS EXEMPTION PROPOSED FOR PLACER TIN MINING  
IN ALASKA

Open-cut or surface mining of placer tin in Alaska appears to be a seasonal industry, it was announced today by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. (Federal Register, March 20, 1940)

The announcement declared that a prima facie case had been shown tending to prove that this form of mining, which is conducted only in the Northwestern part of the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, is possible for only three months in the year because of freezing temperatures and severe climate.

If today's decision should be made final, the exemption would permit the employment of placer tin miners in Alaska up to 12 hours a day and 56 hours a week without payment of overtime for a period not to exceed 14 workweeks in any calendar year. The exemption would not, however, modify the minimum wage requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 30 cents an hour.

In the finding by the Hearings and Exemptions Section, upon which today's decision was based, it is declared:

"The mining of placer tin from surface or open-cuts (exclusively on the Northwestern tip of the Seward Peninsula of Alaska) is characterized by annually recurring cessation of operations because freezing temperature and severe climate during this period make impossible the excavating of the tin minerals and the washing and separating thereof;

"Therefore, upon consideration of the factors stated in the said application (by the American Mining Congress) and upon further investiga-

tion, the Administrator hereby determines, pursuant to Section 526.5 (c) of the Regulations, that a prima facie case has been shown for the granting of an exemption . . . to the mining of placer tin from surface or open-cuts in the territory of Alaska."

According to the procedure established in the Regulations, the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division will receive objections to the granting of the exemption for fifteen days. Should no request for a hearing be received from any interested person within that time, the Administrator will make a final decision on the prima facie case shown.

The exemption application and the report of the investigation made thereon may be examined in Room 313, 939 D Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.; and in the office of B. D. Stewart, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska.

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