For Release Friday, December 6, 1940

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

NORTHERN BRANCH OF PEAT INDUSTRY DECLARED SEASONAL A seasonal exemption from the hours provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the northern branch of the industry engaged in excavating peat materials described in the preliminary determination issued November 5, 1940, was made final today (Federal Register December 6, 1940) by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. No objection was received within 15 days after publication of the prima facie determination.

The excavating of peat materials is defined as the "excavating, mascerating, spreading, cutting or drying of peat materials". The northern branch includes that part of the industry which is carried on in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticat Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illincis, Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Under the seasonal exemption 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week may be worked for not more than 14 workweeks a year without payment of time and half for overtime. The 30¢ an hour minimum wage requirement is not affected.

This determination makes provisions for enlarging the scope of the northern branch of the peat materials producing industry, by supplemental determinations, to include such production of peat materials as are subject to the same seasonal limitations as the northern branch.

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