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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Wage and Hour Division  
Washington

*Inactive*

PLACER GOLD MINING SEASONALITY RE-OPENED

A "seasonal" finding for the open-cut mining of placer gold will be re-opened at a hearing at 10:00 A.M. on May 21 at the Finlen Hotel, Butte, Montana was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. This re-opening will be limited to the question of the mining of placer gold by bucket, dredges, drag lines and other methods employing power machinery. No question has been raised concerning the exemption of placer gold mining by hand methods.

The finding made by Administrator Fleming on January 3, 1940, permitted employees engaged in placer gold mining in the States of Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the territory of Alaska, and subsequently enlarged to include the State of Colorado, to work up to 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week for a period or periods of not more than 14 workweeks in any calendar year without the payment of overtime. Since the finding was made, protests have been received from the International Union of Operating Engineers claiming that the exemption should not have applied to placer gold mining by bucket, drag lines and other power methods because these operations operate fairly continuously throughout the whole year or almost all the year.

A hearing has therefore been set before Harold Stein, authorized representative of the Administrator, to determine whether or not the power operations were properly included within the seasonal finding for placer gold mining. All interested persons can appear at the hearing or can file written statements with the presiding officer or with the Administrator not later than the date of the hearing.

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