

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

40-HOUR WEEK EXEMPTION FOR SAPPHIRE MINING UNDERWAY

Overtime for hydraulic mining of sapphires in the State of Montana need not be paid until after 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week for 14 weeks if a preliminary determination classifying this type of mining as a seasonal industry becomes final. This preliminary determination was made public today by Thomas W. Holland, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

If no objection and request for hearing is received within fifteen days, the Administrator will make a finding upon the prima facie case shown in the application of The American Gem Mines of Philipsburg, Montana.

The Administrator's notice states:

" . . . It appears from said application and upon further investigation that:

"1. All or practically all of the sapphires produced in the United States are mined from surface or open-cuts in the State of Montana by hydraulic methods.

"2. The mining of sapphires from surface or open-cuts by methods employing hydraulicking is characterized by annually recurrent cessation of operations caused by freezing temperatures and water shortage.

"3. Except for maintenance, repair and sales work, the mining of sapphires from surface or open-cuts by methods employing hydraulicking in the State of Montana ceases completely at regularly recurring times of the year for a period of approximately six months or more because due to climatic or other natural conditions the materials employed by the industry are not available in the form in which they are handled or processed."

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