

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions
Washington 25, D. C.

MCCOMB PROPOSES NEW WAGE ORDER FOR ARTIFICIAL FLOWER INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO

Notice of his intention to adopt a new minimum wage order under the Fair Labor Standards Act for the Artificial Flower Industry in Puerto Rico was announced today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The order would establish a minimum wage of 33 cents an hour and would affect approximately 500 employees in the industry, who now are covered by a minimum wage order providing a ~~28-cents-an-hour~~ base.

Text of McComb's proposed wage order is published in the Federal Register today. Copies of the findings and opinion upon which it is based are available on request to the Divisions. Interested parties are given 15 days in which to file exceptions and supporting reasons, in quadruplicate, with the Administrator, in Washington, D. C.

Announcement by the Administrator today follows a public hearing at which interested parties were afforded an opportunity to express their views on the recommendations of a tri-partite industry committee which studied conditions in the industry last summer. Under a special provision in the Wage and Hour Law, it is possible to establish minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries lower than the ~~40-cents-an-hour~~ minimum which prevails for the continental United States.

The proposed effective date in the wage order announced today is July 12. At the expiration of the 15-day period of notice begun today, the Administrator will give notice of his final action.

#####

(06490)