

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

NEW MINIMUM WAGE ORDER FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO PROPOSED BY MCCOMB

Notice of his intention to adopt a new wage order under the Fair Labor Standards Act establishing a minimum rate of 40 cents an hour for the Sugar Manufacturing 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.

Approximately 20,000 employees are engaged in the industry, now subject to a wage order providing a 35-cents-an-hour minimum.

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 has been possible to establish minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries lower than the 40-cents-an-hour statutory minimum which has prevailed for the continental United States since October 24, 1945.

The proposed effective date in the wage order announced today is July 19. At the expiration of the 15-day period of notice begun today, the Administrator will give notice of his final action.

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