

File

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

NEW MINIMUM WAGE ORDER PROPOSED FOR PEARL BUTTON INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO

Notice of his intention to adopt a new minimum wage order under the Fair Labor Standards Act for the Pearl Button 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 proposed order would set the minimum wage in the industry, which employs approximately 600 persons, at $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour. The present wage order provides a minimum of 35 cents an hour.

Text of the 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.

McComb's announcement 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. 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.

Effective date of the proposed wage order 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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