full-scale wage survey in the Dubuque, Iowa, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area and to abolish the wage area. FWS employees in the Dubuque wage area moved to the Davenport, IA, wage schedule on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after December 19, 1999.

Under section 5343 of title 5, United States Code, OPM is responsible for defining FWS wage areas. For this purpose, we follow the regulatory criteria in section 532.211 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations. The Dubuque wage area is presently composed of six survey counties, Clinton, Dubuque, and Jackson, IA, and Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Whiteside, IL. The Department of Defense (DOD) asked OPM to abolish the requirement to conduct a full-scale wage survey in the Dubuque wage area because of the planned closure of the wage area's host installation, the Savannah Army Depot. This closure leaves DOD without an installation in the survey area that is capable of hosting annual local wage surveys. DOD also asked OPM to abolish the Dubuque wage area and redefine its counties to the area of application of the Davenport, IA, FWS wage area.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of FWS employees, reviewed these recommendations and by consensus recommended approval of these changes. The interim rule had a 30-day public comment period, during which OPM did not receive any comments.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they will affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule (64 FR 60087) amending 5 CFR part 532 published on November 4, 1999, is adopted as final with no changes.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00–12056 Filed 5–12–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1220

[No. LS–00–01]

Results of Soybean Request for Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of referendum results.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Request for Referendum shows that too few soybean producers want a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order) for one to be conducted. The Request for Referendum was held from October 20, 1999, through November 16, 1999, at the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. To trigger a referendum 60,082 soybean producers must complete a Request for Referendum. The number of soybean producers requesting a referendum was 17,970.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP–0251; 14th and Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, D.C. 20250–0251. Telephone number 202/720–1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act)(7 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*), every 5 years the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) will give soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Order. If the Secretary determines that at least 10 percent of U.S. producers engaged in growing soybeans (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one State) support the conduct of a referendum, the Secretary must conduct a referendum within 1 year of that determination. If these requirements are not met, a referendum would not be conducted.

A notice of opportunity to Request a Soybean Referendum was publicized in the **Federal Register** on September 13, 1999, at 64 FR 49349. Soybean producers who produced soybeans during the representative period between January 1, 1997, and November 16, 1999, were eligible to participate in the Request for Referendum.

According to USDA's soybean producer survey, there are 600,813 soybean producers in the United States (see 64 FR 45413).

A total of 17,970 valid Requests for Referendum were completed by eligible soybean producers. This number does not meet the requisite number of 60,082. Therefore, based on the Request for Referendum results, a referendum will not be conducted. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, soybean producers would be provided another opportunity to request a referendum in 5 years.

The following is the State-by-State results of the Request for Referendum:

State	Number of valid requests for referendum
Alabama	9
Alaska	0
Arizona	2
Arkansas	90
California	0
Colorado	1
Connecticut	0
Delaware	0
Florida	13
Georgia	9
Hawaii	0
Idaho	0
Illinois	5,851
Indiana	1,926
Iowa	3,932
Kansas	438
Kentucky	177
Louisiana	44
Maine	0
Maryland	119
Massachusetts	0
Michigan	408
Minnesota	991
Mississippi	66
Missouri	1,019
Montana	0
Nebraska	500
Nevada	0
New Hampshire	0
New Jersey	11
New Mexico	0
New York	35
North Carolina	28
North Dakota	41
Ohio	1,449
Oklahoma	17
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	61
Puerto Rico	0
Rhode Island	0
South Carolina	17
South Dakota	409
Tennessee	102
Texas	51
Utah	0
Vermont	1
Virginia	30
Washington	0
West Virginia	3
Wisconsin	119
Wyoming	0
Total	17,970.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6301–6311.

Dated: May 9, 2000.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 00–12155 Filed 5–12–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

NORTHEAST INTERSTATE LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION

10 CFR Chapter XVIII

Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Final Rule for Declaration of Party State Eligibility

AGENCY: Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Northeast Interstate Low-level Radioactive Waste Commission (the ''Commission'') is adopting these rules to establish the conditions under which a state not a party to the Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact (the ''Compact'') may be declared eligible to become a party state. The Commission must declare a state eligible before it may become a party state to the Compact. The procedures and conditions established by the Commission through this rule are intended to protect the integrity of the Compact and the interests of both the existing party states and any state petitioning for a declaration of eligibility.

DATES: This rule becomes effective May 15, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin McCarthy, Chairman, Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission, 703 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033, (860) 633–2060.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Compact was established by ''The Omnibus Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Consent Act of 1985,'' Public Law 99–240, Title II (the ''Act''). The Act gave Congress'' consent to agreements between and among states that were designed to facilitate the regional disposal of low-level radioactive waste (''waste''), thereby promoting the health and safety of the region. Connecticut and New Jersey are current members of the Compact. The Act also established the Commission and gave it authority, inter alia, to promulgate rules, conduct hearings, receive and act on applications to become eligible states, develop regional plans to ensure safe and effective management of waste within the region, designate a host state for siting of a regional disposal facility, enter agreements for the importation of waste into the region and export of waste from the region, impose sanctions, and establish criteria for disposal fees. The Commission consists of one voting member from Connecticut and one voting member from New Jersey.

Since the establishment of the Compact, there has been no regional disposal facility to receive waste generated within the Compact states. Nevertheless, at various times, regional generators have been able to dispose of their waste at other facilities (e.g., at facilities located in Clive, Utah, and Barnwell, South Carolina). Those facilities have not always been available for disposal of all of the waste generated within the region, however, and the Commission has sought to make available more reliable access to waste disposal facilities. Current regional generators anticipate that they will need assured access to waste disposal facilities for the next 50 years until all of the currently licensed nuclear power stations are fully decommissioned and all spent nuclear fuel has been removed from the sites. With these needs in mind, the Commission seeks to ensure the long-term availability of approximately 800,000 cubic feet of disposal space to accommodate all classes of low-level waste. The Commission also seeks to stabilize fees for waste disposal.

The Commission has determined that it is in the interests of the Compact states to declare another state eligible for membership in the Compact if (a) that state is willing to become the voluntary host state and (b) membership in the Compact would achieve important objectives for both the current member states and any petitioning state. Article VII.e. of the Compact permits the Commission to ''establish such conditions as it deems necessary and appropriate to be met by a state requesting eligibility as a party state to this compact.'' The Commission has further determined that the identification and implementation of reasonable conditions to be applied when evaluating a petition for new party state eligibility are essential to the long-term health and safety of the region.

These rules establish the conditions for party state eligibility contemplated by Article VII.e. of the Compact and the criteria for fee and surcharge systems contemplated by Article IV.i.(15) of the Compact. The rules specify the procedures that the Commission will follow for receiving petitions for party state eligibility. They then describe the essential conditions for declaring a state eligible for membership in the Compact. Those conditions include agreements (a) to be the sole host state until all currently licensed nuclear power stations in the region have been decommissioned, (b) to warrant the availability of 800,000 cubic feet of disposal capacity for Connecticut and New Jersey generators, (c) to assure stable, predictable disposal fees that are no greater than generators in Connecticut and New Jersey paid at the end of 1999, (d) to give flexibility for generators to dispose of waste elsewhere at their discretion, (e) to indemnify the existing party states for any potential environmental liability caused by their membership in the Compact and by operation of the regional disposal facility, and (f) to ensure an equitable schedule for return of a portion of any incentive payment made by the existing party states if the regional disposal facility ceases to be available for any reason.

Summary of Public Comments on the Proposed Rule

The Commission received written comments on the proposed rule (65 FR 13700, March 14, 2000) from the New Jersey Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility Siting Board, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, GPU Nuclear, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy Management, Public Service Electric & Gas Company, and Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company. These organizations (except Connecticut Yankee), as well as the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, offered oral comments at public hearings held in Trenton, NJ on April 17, 2000, and in Bridgeport, CT on April 18, 2000. All of the commenters supported the proposed rule and urged its adoption. Copies of the public comments are available for review at the Commission's office, 703 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033.

Public Comments on the Rule To Establish Criteria for Declaration of Eligible State

None of the public commenters objected to the Commission's proposed procedures and criteria for declaring a state eligible to become a party to the Compact. Some of the comments raise issues that should be addressed during the evaluation of a specific petition for declaration as a party state. Other comments raise issues that are