



IMPORTANT NOTICE

ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (PWR) SURVEY POSTPONED

July 20, 2009

To All Interested Parties:

I have decided to postpone until a later date this year's annual construction industry survey, the results of which are used to establish prevailing wage rates for public works projects in Oregon.

Since my appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries last year, I have heard many concerns expressed about the annual survey by contractors and other interested parties, specifically relating to its efficacy and methodology.

As labor commissioner, I am charged by law with establishing prevailing wage rates for construction trades in Oregon each year based on the data collected from this survey. Because of the importance of the survey to this process, I want to ensure that we have the best product and data possible, and that the amount of time and work involved for contractors responding to the survey is kept to a minimum.

Earlier this year, I asked the legislatively-established Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee (PWAC) to review the survey process and make recommendations to me for improvements and increased data validity.

The PWAC has held several meetings regarding the survey, and has solicited and received comments, concerns and suggestions from interested parties.

Because it appears to me that the committee is close to completing this process and will likely make recommendations for substantive changes to the survey, I have decided to postpone this summer's survey, which you would ordinarily receive in August, until the PWAC concludes its work and I can evaluate the committee's recommendations.

I continue to encourage all interested parties to submit ideas and suggestions about how the survey can be improved. We are particularly interested in hearing from contractors and those responsible for completing the survey regarding the following:

- What is the most difficult part of the survey to complete and why?
- Whether the "peak week" period of time currently surveyed should be extended, and if so, for how long? How difficult would it be to report a quarter's or year's worth of information?

- Whether the survey should be conducted at a different time of year
- How geographical information is kept by contractors
- Whether the current number of regions (14) should be reduced or consolidated
- The possibility of using existing payroll programs or creating an online interactive data entry program for submitting survey data

To comment on any of the above or submit additional suggestions regarding the survey, please visit our website at http://egov.oregon.gov/BOLI/WHD/PWR/PWR_Survey_Review.shtml.

I will continue to keep you informed about proposed changes to the survey and the timeline for the next survey conducted. Updates relating to the survey will also be posted on BOLI's website.

Again, it is my goal that the most accurate data possible be collected by this annual survey and with the least amount of disruption to contractors' businesses. I invite and encourage your participation in this important process of improving the current survey.

If you have any questions, you may contact Denise Voll at 800.262.3912, ext. 71282 or 503.947.1282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Chakian".

Commissioner
Bureau of Labor and Industries