



NOV 09 2017

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Delegate Sablan:

Thank you for your email dated October 10, 2017, to Mr. Byron Anderson of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, notifying him of the recently released 2016 CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Study: SOC Detailed Occupation Titles and Hourly Wages Report. Your e-mail has been referred to my office for response. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is responsible for administering the Department of Labor's (Department) Foreign Labor Certification Program through the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC).

In your letter, you inquire if OFLC is aware of the report and the process by which the Prevailing Wage and Workforce Study (PWWS) would be approved for prevailing wage determination requests. OFLC's National Prevailing Wage Center (NPWC) provides prevailing wage determinations to employers seeking to employ workers for the H-1B, H-1B1, E-3, H-2B and permanent labor certification programs. On September 4, 2017, the NPWC received an email from the CNMI Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman, with a link to the PWWS requesting a date by which CNMI businesses could begin to use the PWWS for prevailing wage requests. The NPWC Center Director responded to Secretary Rabauliman on September 28, 2017, and will continue to work with him on any issues.

The first request for a prevailing wage determination was submitted on September 5, 2017, and we are currently reviewing and processing requests filed in September 2017. The Certifying Officer will review the pending requests for prevailing wage determinations and the survey, and if needed, request additional information from the employer applicants. Each application is reviewed on its own merits and if the NPWC is unable to accept the PWWS for an application due to evaluation of the survey criteria and the occupation specific to the application, the prevailing wage determination will be based on the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage survey.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 693-4600.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy M. Rooney".

Nancy M. Rooney  
Deputy Assistant Secretary