

Office of Personnel Management

§ 330.1202

agency (whether competitive or excepted) when the employee applied and was found qualified; or

(ii) Fails to respond within a reasonable period of time to an offer or official inquiry of availability from the agency for a permanent appointment, at any grade level, offered by the agency (whether competitive or excepted) when the employee applied and was found qualified.

[63 FR 41387, Aug. 4, 1998, as amended at 66 FR 6429, Jan. 22, 2001; 67 FR 6639, Feb. 13, 2002]

§ 330.1105 Selection.

(a) If two or more individuals eligible for priority under subpart G of this part (the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan), under subpart K of this part (Federal Employment Priority Consideration for Displaced Employees of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections), and/or under subpart L of this part (Interagency Career Transition Assistance for Displaced Former Panama Canal Zone Employees) apply for a vacancy and are eligible for priority, the agency has the discretion to select any of the individuals.

(b) Agencies will conduct a documented, independent second review whenever an otherwise eligible employee fails to meet the "qualified" requirement. The applicant must be advised in writing of the results of the second review.

[66 FR 6429, Jan. 22, 2001]

§ 330.1106 Appointment.

(a)(1) Selectees under this subpart receive noncompetitive appointments to the competitive service under the authority of Public Law 105-274, enacted October 21, 1998.

(2) Agencies must retroactively and noncompetitively convert or correct any excepted appointments made under section 11203(b) of Public Law 105-33 to competitive service appointments under Public Law 105-274. For employees appointed before October 21, 1998, the conversion will be effective on October 21, 1998. For employees appointed on or after October 21, 1998, agencies must correct the record to reflect com-

petitive service appointment as of the original appointment date.

(b) Eligibility for appointment under this subpart expires 1 year after the closing of the Lorton Correctional Complex.

[66 FR 6429, Jan. 22, 2001]

Subpart L—Interagency Career Transition Assistance for Displaced Former Panama Canal Zone Employees

SOURCE: 65 FR 52294, Aug. 29, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

§ 330.1201 Purpose.

This subpart implements Section 1232 of Public Law 96-70 (the Panama Canal Act of 1979) and provides eligible displaced employees of the former Panama Canal Zone with interagency special selection priority for continuing Federal vacant positions in the continental United States.

§ 330.1202 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Agency* means an Executive Department, a Government corporation, and an independent establishment as cited in 5 U.S.C. 105. For the purposes of this program, the term "agency" includes all components of an organization, including its Office of Inspector General.

(b) *Canal Zone* is the definition set forth in 22 U.S.C. 3602(b)(1), and means the areas and installations in the Republic of Panama made available to the United States pursuant to the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements;

(c) *Eligible displaced employee of the former Panama Canal Zone* means a citizen of the United States who:

(1) Held a position in the Panama Canal Employment System that is in retention tenure group 1 or 2, as defined in § 351.501(a) of this chapter;

(2)(i) Was an employee of the Panama Canal Company or the Canal Zone Government on March 31, 1979, and was continuously employed in the former Panama Canal Zone under the Panama Canal Employment System; or

(ii) Was continuously employed since March 31, 1979, in the former Panama

§ 330.1203

5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-05 Edition)

Canal Zone under the Panama Canal Employment System as an employee of an executive agency, or as an employee of the Smithsonian Institution;

(3) Held a position that was eliminated as the result of the implementation of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements;

(4) Was not appointed to another appropriate Federal position located in the Republic of Panama; and

(5) Received a specific notice of separation by reduction in force, and meets the additional eligibility criteria covered in § 330.1203.

(d) *Special selection priority* means that an eligible displaced employee of the former Panama Canal Zone who applies for a competitive service vacancy, and who the hiring agency in the continental United States determines is well-qualified, has the same special selection priority as a current or former displaced Federal employee who is eligible under 5 CFR part 330, subpart G (the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan), or under 5 CFR part 330, subpart K (Federal Employment Priority Consideration for Displaced Employees of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections). Eligible displaced employees of the former Panama Canal Zone have special selection priority under this subpart to positions throughout the continental United States.

(e) *Vacancy* means a competitive service position to be filled for a total of 121 days or more, including all extensions, which the agency is filling, regardless of whether the agency issues a specific vacancy announcement.

(f) *Well-qualified* employee means an eligible displaced former employee of the Panama Canal Zone who possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities that clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements for the position. A well-qualified employee will not necessarily meet the agency's definition of *highly or best qualified*, when evaluated against other candidates who apply for a particular vacancy, but must satisfy the following criteria, as determined and consistently applied by the agency:

(1) Meets the basic qualification standards and eligibility requirements for the position, including any medical qualifications, suitability, and minimum

educational and experience requirements;

(2) Satisfies one of the following qualifications requirements:

(i) Meets all selective factors where applicable. Meets appropriate quality rating factor levels as determined by the agency. Selective and quality ranking factors cannot be so restrictive that they run counter to the goal of placing displaced employees. In the absence of selective and quality ranking factors, selecting officials will document the job-related reason(s) the eligible employee is or is not considered to be well-qualified; or

(ii) Is rated by the agency to be above minimally qualified in accordance with the agency's specific rating and ranking process. Generally, this means that the individual may or may not meet the agency's test for highly qualified, but would in fact, exceed the minimum qualifications for the position;

(3) Is physically qualified, with reasonable accommodation where appropriate, to perform the essential duties of the position;

(4) Meets any special qualifying condition(s) that OPM has approved for the position;

(5) Is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry; and

(6) Has a last performance rating of at least "Fully Successful" or equivalent.

§ 330.1203 Eligibility.

(a) In order to be eligible for special selection priority, an eligible displaced employee of the former Panama Canal Zone must:

(1) Have received a specific notice of separation by reduction in force;

(2) Have not been appointed to another appropriate position in the Government of the United States in Panama;

(3) Apply for a vacancy within the time frames established by the hiring agency; and

(4) Be found by the hiring agency as well-qualified for that specific vacancy.

(b) Eligibility for special selection priority as an eligible displaced employee of the former Panama Canal