

## § 1650.24

have been closed, the TSP record keeper will send the participant a check for the entire amount of his or her account balance if the account balance is \$5.00 or more but less than \$200. The participant may not elect to leave this amount in the TSP, nor will the TSP transfer this amount to an eligible employer plan or traditional IRA, or pay it by EFT. However, the participant may elect to roll over this payment into an eligible employer plan or traditional IRA.

### § 1650.24 How to obtain a post-employment withdrawal.

To request a post-employment withdrawal, a participant must submit to the TSP record keeper a properly completed paper TSP post-employment withdrawal request form or use the TSP Web site to initiate a request. (A participant's ability to complete a post-employment withdrawal on the Web will depend on his or her retirement system coverage, withdrawal election, account balance, marital status, and whether or not the withdrawal will be transferred to an eligible employer plan or traditional IRA.)

[68 FR 35503, June 13, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 32215, June 1, 2005]

## § 1650.25 [Reserved]

## Subpart D—In-Service Withdrawals

### § 1650.31 Age-based withdrawals.

(a) A participant who has reached age 59½ and who has not separated from Government employment is eligible to withdraw all or a portion of his or her vested TSP account balance in a single payment. The amount of an age-based withdrawal request must be at least \$1,000, unless the withdrawal request is for the entire vested account balance.

(b) An age-based withdrawal is an eligible rollover distribution, so a participant may request that the TSP transfer all or a portion of the withdrawal to a tradition IRA or an eligible employer plan.

(c) A participant is permitted only one age-based withdrawal for an account.

(d) A participant who makes an age-based withdrawal is not eligible to

## 5 CFR Ch. VI (1–1–07 Edition)

make a partial withdrawal after separating from Government service.

### § 1650.32 Financial hardship withdrawals.

(a) A participant who has not separated from Government employment and who can certify that he or she has a financial hardship is eligible to withdraw all or a portion of his or her own contributions to the TSP (and their attributable earnings) in a single payment to meet certain specified financial obligations. The amount of a financial hardship withdrawal request must be at least \$1,000.

(b) To be eligible for a financial hardship withdrawal, a participant must have a financial need that results from at least one of the following four conditions:

(1) The participant's monthly cash flow is negative (*i.e.*, the participant's income is less than his or her monthly expenses on a recurring basis);

(2) The participant has incurred medical expenses as a result of a medical condition, illness, or injury to the participant, the participant's spouse, or the participant's dependents. Generally, eligible expenses are those that would be eligible for deduction as medical expenses for Federal income tax purposes. Eligible medical expenses include the cost of household improvements required as a result of a medical condition, illness or injury. Household improvements are structural improvements to the participant's living quarters or the installation of special equipment that is necessary to accommodate the circumstances of the incapacitated person.

(3) The participant must have paid the cost of repair or replacement resulting from a personal casualty loss that would be eligible for deduction for Federal income tax purposes, but without regard to the IRS income limitations on deductibility, fair market value of the property, or number of events. Personal casualty loss includes damage, destruction, or loss of property resulting from a sudden, unexpected, or unusual event, such as an earthquake, hurricane, tornado, flood, storm, fire, or theft.