



December 6, 2017

To whom it may concern,

Recently, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry sent out an area practice survey to determine the prevailing classification for pipefitter and laborer/pipelayer work on heavy construction inside water and waste water treatment plants.

After the survey was sent, some employers requested the Department to clarify the prevailing wage survey processes because of concern that survey responses would be used to audit public works construction projects.

This memo is intended to address that concern and explain the standard practice for surveys and audits. Because statute requires surveys be used to set the proper prevailing wage rates and to determine the proper classifications for work performed on public works projects, it is important that the surveys receive accurate responses. Therefore, the Department has long maintained separation of surveys from audit staff. The audit unit staff do not access, review, or use any information from the surveys in their work. By maintaining this separation, the Department ensures that survey respondents can provide full information to the Department.

As noted in the original survey, participation is critical to proper survey results. ARM 24.17.119(7), 24.17.120(7), and 24.17.121(7) state, *"It is the obligation of any person having possession or knowledge of wage rate information, including collective bargaining agreements that the commissioner should consider, or desires that the commissioner consider, to timely deliver such information to the commissioner."* Therefore, we need your help to obtain the valuable information you have regarding wage classification.

For convenience, the survey form may be completed online at www.erd.dli.mt.gov. If you need assistance, have questions, wish to receive prevailing wage survey materials via email instead of regular mail, or if your firm has no data to report, you may send an email to msmith3@mt.gov (**please provide your survey number**) or call at **(406) 444-1741**. Please refer to the "Area Practice Survey" when you call and **have your survey number available**.

In order to ensure your information is used in the classification process, please have your questionnaire returned to us on or before DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your help with this survey.

Sincerely,

Eric Strauss