

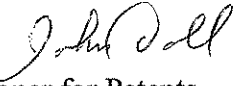


## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Date: December 14, 2006

To: Patent Employees in the GS-1220 Series

From: John Doll   
Commissioner for Patents

SUBJECT: Special Salary Rate

On November 21, 2006, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved the agency's request for an across-the-board increase to Special Salary Rate Table 0576. This increases the pay rates by approximately 7% for all employees in GS-5 through GS-15 positions in the Patent Administration, Patent Attorney, Patent Examiner and Design Patent Examiner occupational series. In addition, GS-11 and GS-12 Patent Examiners (Complex Biotechnology) covered by Special Rate Pay Table 0419 now will be covered by pay table 0576. The link to the Special Salary Rate Table is:  
<http://ptoweb/ptointranet/ohr/specialpaytable0576.pdf>

The Office of Human Resources has been working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center (NFC), which is responsible for processing USPTO's payroll. Due to systems changes associated with the upcoming January 2007 general pay increase, the NFC was unable to make the systems changes necessary to have the special salary rate increase available for the official pay date on December 21, 2006. NFC has notified us that the pay adjustment will occur during pay period 26 (December 24, 2006 – January 6, 2007) and that this adjustment will be retroactive to November 26, 2006. The official pay date for pay period 26 is January 18, 2007.

Employees covered by the new pay rate will also receive an increase in the first full pay period in January 2007 equivalent to the basic rate increase received by all GS employees. The percentage for this increase has not yet been determined. We will keep you informed as the information on processing the pay adjustment and the rate for the January 2007 increase become available.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Thomas at 571-272-0732.