

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT****January 2018 Pay Schedules****AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The President has signed an Executive order to implement the January 2018 pay adjustments for certain Federal civilian employees. The Executive order authorizes a 1.4 percent across-the-board increase for statutory pay systems and locality pay increases costing approximately 0.5 percent of basic payroll, reflecting an overall average pay increase of 1.9 percent. This notice serves as documentation for the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Foy, Pay and Leave, Employee Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; (202) 606-4194 or pay-leave-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 22, 2017, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13819 (82 FR 61431), which implemented the January 2018 pay adjustments. The Executive order provides an overall average pay increase of 1.9 percent for the statutory pay systems. This is consistent with the President's alternative pay plan issued under 5 U.S.C. 5303(b) and 5304a on August 31, 2017.

The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in Section 5(b) of E.O. 13819 that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 2018 locality payments in the **Federal Register**.

Schedule 1 of E.O. 13819 provides the rates for the 2018 General Schedule (GS) and reflects a 1.4 percent increase from 2017. Executive Order 13819 also includes the percentage amounts of the 2018 locality payments. (See Section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13819.)

General Schedule employees receive locality payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304. Locality payments apply in the United States (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5921(4)) and its territories and possessions. In 2018, locality payments ranging from 15.37 percent to 39.28 percent apply to GS employees in the 47 locality pay areas. The 2018 locality pay area definitions can be found at: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2018/locality-pay-area-definitions/>.

The 2018 locality pay percentages became effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2018 (January 7, 2018). An employee's locality rate of pay is

computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of pay (as defined in 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.609.)

Executive Order 13819 establishes the new Executive Schedule (EX), which incorporates a 1.4 percent increase required under 5 U.S.C. 5318 (rounded to the nearest \$100). By law, Executive Schedule officials are not authorized to receive locality payments.

Executive Order 13819 establishes the 2018 range of rates of basic pay for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) under 5 U.S.C. 5382. The minimum rate of basic pay for the SES is \$126,148 in 2018. The maximum rate of the SES rate range is \$189,600 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system and \$174,500 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are not covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system.

The minimum rate of basic pay for the senior-level (SL) and scientific and professional (ST) rate range was increased by 1.4 percent (\$126,148 in 2017), which is the amount of the across-the-board GS increase. The applicable maximum rate of the SL/ST rate range is \$189,600 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system and \$174,500 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are not covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system. Agencies with certified performance appraisal systems for SES members and employees in SL and ST positions must also apply a higher aggregate limitation on pay—up to the Vice President's salary (\$243,500 in 2018.)

Note that Section 20101 of subdivision 3 of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123, February 9, 2018) amended the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, division D of Public Law 115-56. Under section 101(a) of that Act, the authority and conditions provided in FY 2017 appropriations laws continue to apply during the period specified in the Act, as amended. This language means that the freeze on the payable pay rates for the Vice President and certain senior political appointees at 2013 levels—as provided in section 738 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017—continues through March 23, 2018, or the date of enactment of new appropriations legislation. Future Congressional action will determine

whether the pay freeze continues beyond March 23, 2018. Until such time, the OPM guidance on the 2017 pay freeze for certain senior political officials is generally applicable in applying the pay freeze in 2018. (See OPM guidance memoranda CPM 2017-05 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/continued-pay-freeze-certain-senior-political-officials>, CPM 2018-02 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/continued-pay-freeze-certain-senior-political-officials-1>, CPM 2018-03 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/pay-and-leave-employees-affected-lapse-appropriations-and-continued-pay-freeze-certain>, and CPM 2018-05 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/pay-employees-affected-lapse-appropriations-and-continued-pay-freeze-certain-senior>.)

Executive Order 13819 provides that the rates of basic pay for administrative law judges (ALJs) under 5 U.S.C. 5372 are increased by 1.4 percent, rounded to the nearest \$100 in 2018. The rate of basic pay for AL-1 is \$164,200 (equivalent to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule). The rate of basic pay for AL-2 is \$160,100. The rates of basic pay for AL-3/A through 3/F range from \$109,600 to \$151,700.

The rates of basic pay for members of Contract Appeals Boards are calculated as a percentage of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule. (See 5 U.S.C. 5372a.) Therefore, these rates of basic pay are increased by 1.4 percent in 2018.

On November 22, 2017, OPM issued a memorandum on behalf of the President's Pay Agent (the Secretary of Labor and the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and OPM) that continues GS locality payments for ALJs and certain other non-GS employee categories in 2018. By law, EX officials, SES members, employees in SL/ST positions, and employees in certain other equivalent pay systems are not authorized to receive locality payments. (**Note:** An exception applies to certain grandfathered SES, SL, and ST employees stationed in a nonforeign area on January 2, 2010. See CPM 2009-27 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/nonforeign-area-retirement-equity-assurance-act>.) The memo is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/continuation-of-locality-payments-for-non-general-schedule-employees-november-22-2017.pdf>.

On December 22, 2017, OPM issued a memorandum (CPM 2017-18) on the January 2018 pay adjustments. (See <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/january-2018-pay-adjustments>.) The memorandum transmitted Executive

Order 13819 and provided the 2018 salary tables, locality pay areas and percentages, and information on general pay administration matters and other related information. The “2018 Salary Tables” posted on OPM’s website at <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/> are the official rates of pay for affected employees and are hereby incorporated as part of this notice.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Jeff T.H. Pon,

Director.

[FR Doc. 2018–05611 Filed 3–19–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–39–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for Review: Application for Deferred Retirement (for Persons Separated on or After October 1, 1956), OPM 1496A

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: 30-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Retirement Operations, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) offers the general public and other Federal agencies the opportunity to comment on the revision of a currently approved information collection, Application for Deferred Retirement (for persons separated on or after October 1, 1956), OPM 1496A.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until April 19, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk Officer for the Office of Personnel Management or sent via electronic mail to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov or faxed to (202) 395–6974.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this information collection, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the Retirement Services Publications Team, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW, Room 3316–L, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Cyrus S. Benson, or sent via electronic mail to Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov or faxed to (202) 606–0910 or via telephone at (202) 606–4808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 OPM is soliciting comments

for this collection. The information collection (OMB No. 3206–0121) was previously published in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 2017, at 82 FR 51306, allowing for a 60-day public comment period. No comments were received for this collection. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

OPM Form 1496A is used by eligible former Federal employees to apply for a deferred Civil Service annuity.

Analysis

Agency: Retirement Operations, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management.

Title: Application for Deferred Retirement (for persons separated on or after October 1, 1956).

OMB Number: 3206–0121.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individual or Households.

Number of Respondents: 2,800.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 1 hour.

Total Burden Hours: 2,800.

Office of Personnel Management.

Jeff T.H. Pon,

Director.

[FR Doc. 2018–05610 Filed 3–19–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–38–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 33048; 812–14788]

Destra Exchange-Traded Fund Trust, et al.

March 14, 2018.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”) for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), 22(d), and 22(e) of the Act and rule 22c–1 under the Act, under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act, and under section 12(d)(1)(J) for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act. The requested order would permit (a) index-based series of certain open-end management investment companies (“Funds”) to issue shares redeemable in large aggregations (“Creation Units”); (b) secondary market transactions in Fund shares to occur at negotiated market prices rather than at net asset value (“NAV”); (c) certain Funds to pay redemption proceeds, under certain circumstances, more than seven days after the tender of shares for redemption; (d) certain affiliated persons of a Fund to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the Fund in connection with the purchase and redemption of Creation Units; (e) certain registered management investment companies and unit investment trusts outside of the same group of investment companies as the Funds (“Funds of Funds”) to acquire shares of the Funds; (f) certain Funds (“Feeder Funds”) to create and redeem Creation Units in-kind in a master-feeder structure; and (g) certain Funds to issue Shares in less than Creation Unit size to investors participating in a distribution reinvestment program.

APPLICANTS: Destra Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (the “Trust”), a Massachusetts business trust, which will register under the Act as an open-end management investment company with multiple series, Destra Capital Advisors LLC (the “Initial Adviser”), a Delaware limited liability company registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and Destra Capital Investments LLC (the “Distributor”), a Delaware limited liability company and broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”).