



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

Press Release

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Avakian Announces PWR Survey Changes for 2010

PORTLAND, OR- Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Commissioner Brad Avakian has announced revisions to the annual construction industry wage survey, which is used to determine prevailing wage rates for public works projects. Responding to concerns about the current system, Avakian brought together contractor and labor stakeholders last year and solicited recommendations from the Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee (PWAC) and the Oregon Employment Department, which administers the survey on BOLI's behalf.

"I want to thank the advisory committee for giving me thoughtful recommendations about improving the validity as well as the ease of use of our survey process," said Avakian. "I look forward to implementing these improvements to our process, and I am excited to continue discussing other potential improvements, such as data auditing and electronic reporting."

One recommendation that came unanimously from contractors and workers was to abolish the "peak week" survey methodology and allow collection of more statistically significant data. Beginning in 2010, the wage survey will collect data from four pre-determined weeks in order to gather more accurate data regarding wages paid.

"Continuing improvement to the survey and our rate-setting process is my goal," Avakian said. "There was widespread agreement on some changes and we're going to push forward with those, and I and the members of the advisory committee and representatives from the Employment Department will continue to discuss ways to increase the accuracy of our system as well as reducing the workload it creates."

You can find more information about the specific changes coming to the survey and rate-setting process [on BOLI's website](#).

BOLI defends the rights of workers and citizens to equal, nondiscriminatory treatment in workplaces, housing and public accommodations and encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment. The bureau also partners with business and labor organizations to build a skilled workforce in Oregon and trains employers to understand and comply with civil rights and other labor and employment laws.

For more information about BOLI, visit our website [here](#).

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