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**U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD (MSPB) TO
CONSIDER RESEARCH AGENDA AT OPEN MEETING ON DECEMBER 8, 2010**

On Wednesday, December 8, 2010, MSPB will conduct an open meeting on the proposed FY 2011-2013 research agenda from its Office of Policy and Evaluation (OPE). The proceedings will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Surface Transportation Board, First Floor Hearing Room, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423. See [75 FR 72842, November 26, 2010](#). This is the first open meeting of the Board since 2001 and the first open meeting to consider OPE's research agenda in approximately 15 years.

The MSPB has statutory responsibility to conduct objective, non-partisan studies that assess and evaluate Federal merit systems policies, operations, and practices. See [5 U.S.C. 1204\(a\)\(3\)](#). Earlier this year, MSPB [invited](#) the public and other stakeholders to provide feedback and ideas for the research agenda. During this meeting, OPE staff will present the 29 proposed study topics—the vast majority of which were identified through public and stakeholder input—to the Board Members. In addition, several key stakeholders will present their views on the proposed research agenda at the meeting.

Organized into six broad areas or related research, the proposed topics include:

Hiring and Assessment

1. Recruiting and Hiring with USAJOBS
2. The First Hurdle: Winnowing the Applicant Pool
3. Self-Assessment of Performance and Qualifications
4. Personality Assessments and Federal Hiring
5. How Do Selecting Officials Make Hiring Decisions?
6. Choosing Between Internal and External Hiring

Supervision and Leadership

7. Recruiting for the Senior Executive Service
8. Supervisor Selection: Assessment Tools and Selection
9. Supervisors' Perceptions of Their Role, Skills, Motivation and Training Needs
10. Appropriate Use of Supervisory Authority
11. Dual Career Tracks for Supervisors and Technical Specialists
12. Leadership in Public Service: Politics and Policy

Defending Merit

13. Merit System Principles Education
14. Clean Records and the Public Interest
15. Treatment of Temporary Employees
16. Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Federal Government
17. Workplace Violence
18. Focus on Veterans' Hiring

Focus on the Office of Personnel Management

19. Hiring Reform
20. OPM Oversight in a Decentralized Civil Service
21. Issues with the Federal Classification System
22. Can We Learn More From Demonstration Projects?

Performance Management

23. What Is—and How Do You Measure—Job Performance?
24. The Extra Mile: Employee Engagement and High Performance
25. Awards Programs

Building an Effective Workforce

26. The Human Resources Workforce: Rising to the Challenge?
27. Building Effective Partnerships Between Management and Unions
28. Technology in the Workplace: What Do We Expect of Employees?
29. Challenges of the Aging Workforce

Additional detail about the proposed research agenda is available on MSPB's website at <http://www.mspb.gov/sunshineactmeeting/>. The MSPB also will make a recording of the open meeting available on its website. The public is welcome to attend for the sole purpose of observation. Persons with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should direct the request to MSPB's Director of Equal Employment Opportunity at (202) 653-6772 ext. 1194 or V/TDD 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay Service). Please make any requests at least one week in advance.

The public still can provide comments on the proposed research agenda by e-mailing research.agenda@mspb.gov. The MSPB will accept comments through December 31, 2010.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency that protects Federal merit systems and the rights of individuals within those systems. The MSPB also conducts studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.