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Governor Doyle Announces Workers Dislocated From 3M in Eau Claire to Receive Assistance

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today the availability of additional reemployment services for all workers of 3M's Electronics Solutions Division in Eau Claire, including on-site leased workers from Volt and Manpower, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 30, 2006 due to increased imports. The workers produce organic interconnect substrates for electronic components.

"This additional federal funding will help these workers upgrade their skills and help prepare them for the highly-skilled jobs of the future," Governor Doyle said. "I am pleased we are able to offer additional assistance to these workers to help them get back into the workforce, so they can support themselves and their families and enjoy all that life has to offer in Wisconsin."

The services, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), are available through local Job Centers and funded through the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. They include retraining and reemployment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. Major activities and services for which these workers may qualify for are:

- **Training** for employment in another job or career
- **Income Support**, known as trade readjustment allowances (TRA)
- **Job Search Allowance** to cover expenses incurred in seeking employment outside normal commuting areas
- **Relocation Allowances** for approved relocations expenses to relocate to a new area of employment.

"This federal funding will help us serve workers in the area, as we reconnect unemployed workers to employment as quickly as possible," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman.

Affected workers are also eligible to apply for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), which is available to workers aged 50 or older who possess skills that are not easily transferable. Qualifying workers who obtain new employment within 26 weeks of separation can receive a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new employment. The program was designed to provide assistance to workers for whom the retraining offered under the regular TAA program may not be appropriate.

In certifying these workers for TAA services, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) found that sales, production, and employment at 3M declined while imports of articles like or directly competitive with the products produced by the company's Electronics Solutions Division increased.

Individuals interested in receiving reemployment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/programs/dislocated/default.htm>. The nearest Job Center location can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.