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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Regal-Beloit Electric Motors Plant, Neillsville

Employment, training services for 136 displaced following production shift to Mexico

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today that 136 dislocated workers formerly employed by the Regal-Beloit Corporation in Neillsville qualify for additional employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) because the firm shifted the production of its electric motors to Mexico.

“I am pleased to announce this additional federal assistance to help these workers improve their skills and prepare for new jobs,” Governor Doyle said. “The employment and training services now available to these workers will help them reenter the workforce, support themselves and their families and enjoy all that life in Wisconsin has to offer.”

The U.S. Department of Labor determined that the layoffs resulted from Regal-Beloit’s decision to build electric motors at a plant in Mexico. All workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after January 9, 2008, through January 9, 2010, are eligible to apply for assistance. The eligible workers include Mid-West Labor employees working at the Regal-Beloit Electric Motors Group plant in Neillsville.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and reemployment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. These workers can now apply for the following TAA services:

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

“These are services that we and our local partners can provide affected workers to help connect them with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

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.

Individuals interested in receiving reemployment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> to find a Job Center nearby. The nearest Job Center location also can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.