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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee and Richland Center

Employment, training services for 601 workers displaced by foreign competition

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 396 dislocated workers from Rockwell Automation, OES Division, including on-site leased workers from Volt, and Victory Personnel, Milwaukee, are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The Governor also announced that 205 dislocated workers at Rockwell Automation Inc., Richland Center, are eligible to apply for the same services.

"I am pleased to announce the availability of this additional assistance, which will help workers increase their job skills and find new employment," Governor Doyle said. "These employment and training services will help them re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families."

The U.S. Department of Labor has determined that former Rockwell Automation workers were dislocated as a result of the company's decision to shift production to Mexico. Workers from Milwaukee who were totally or partially separated from employment on or after July 8, 2008, through September 30, 2011, are eligible to apply for assistance. Richland Center workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 18, 2008, through September 24, 2011, are eligible to apply for assistance. Affected workers will be notified of meetings to discuss program benefits.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and re-employment 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, and
- **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.

In June, Governor Doyle announced that the U.S. Department of Labor expanded the amount of TAA funds available nationwide to \$575 million from \$220 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The additional funding will help states serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers. More information on the TAA program is available at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

Individuals interested in receiving re-employment 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.