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DWD Receives Complaint Regarding Golden Guernsey Closure

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) this afternoon received a complaint alleging the recent closure of the Golden Guernsey dairy plant in Waukesha occurred without advance notification as required under the state's Business (Plant) Closing and Mass Layoff Law.

The complaint was filed with the agency's Equal Rights Division (ERD) by Robert Storm Jr., of Burlington, who identified himself as one of at least 112 displaced workers as a result of the closing.

The state Business (Plant) Closing and Mass Layoff Law states that, with certain exceptions, employers with 50 or more workers must provide notice 60 days in advance of when 25 or more employees are affected by a business closing or 25 percent of the workforce is affected by a mass layoff.

As with any complaint alleging violation of the law, the ERD's Labor Standards Bureau will conduct a complete and thorough investigation and make a determination based on all relevant facts.

The general process following an investigation is as follows:

- The ERD makes an initial determination with a recommended order, which can be appealed administratively before a final determination is made.
- If the Division finds no violation occurred, the case is closed. If the ERD finds payment is due to employees, the Division orders payment within a certain time period.
- Orders that are not followed are referred to the state Department of Justice (DOJ) with a request that DOJ seek payment of the wages due plus a 100% increase (double the amount).

Additionally, state law indicates an employer can be liable for a forfeiture of \$500 per day it failed to notify the municipality where the plant closing or mass layoff occurred.

A copy of the complaint (with Social Security and other personal information redacted) can be accessed [here](#).

For more information about the Wisconsin Business (Plant) Closing and Mass Layoff Law: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/labor_standards_bureau/business_closing_and_mass_layoffs.htm