

Jim Doyle
Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

201 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 7946

Madison, WI 53707-7946

Telephone: (608) 266-3131

Fax: (608) 266-1784

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>

e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Southwest Metal Finishing, Inc., New Berlin

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today the availability of additional reemployment services for workers of Southwest Metal Finishing, Inc., New Berlin, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after June 23, 2007.

“With this additional federal assistance, these workers can receive training to improve their skills, preparing them for new jobs,” Governor Doyle said. “I am pleased we are able to help these workers reenter the workforce, so they can support themselves and their families and enjoy all that life in Wisconsin has to offer.”

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 relocation expenses to relocate 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.

Services will be available to an estimated 105 workers at Southwest Metal Finishing, Inc. The workers produced polished die castings. A Department of Labor investigation determined the decline in employment at Southwest Metal Finishing was related to a shift in plant production of polished die castings to Mexico, a country that is a party to a free trade agreement with the United States.

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://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/programs/dislocated/default.htm>. The nearest Job Center location can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.