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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Regal Ware Plants in Kewaskum, West Bend

Employment, training services for workers displaced due to foreign competition

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that workers displaced at the Kewaskum and West Bend plants of Regal Ware, Inc., are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional assistance will help these 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.”

At the two plants, workers manufactured steel cookware, commercial food products and water purification products, all of which have faced increasing competition from foreign sources. A survey of Regal Ware’s customers by the U.S. Department of Labor found greater reliance on foreign sources during the last three years.

The TAA certification applies to workers displaced as of December 27, 2009, through March 30, 2012. 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,
- **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.

“Working with our partners, we provide these services to displaced workers to help them get the training they need and connect with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

Last year, 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). 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 toll free (888) 258-9966.