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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Wausau Paper Specialty Products in Columbus

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today the availability of additional reemployment services for workers of Wausau Paper Specialty Products in Columbus, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after April 28, 2007.

“I am pleased to announce additional federal assistance that will provide these workers training to improve their skills and prepare them for new jobs,” Governor Doyle said. “The additional services will help them reenter the workforce, 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 relocations expenses to relocate to a new area of employment.

“With the approval of this additional assistance, we will work with our local partners to help the affected workers build skills and connect with employers in search of skilled workers,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

The additional reemployment services are available to 44 dislocated workers at Wausau Paper Specialty Products. The workers produced wax laminated roll wraps for the firm, a subsidiary of the Wausau Paper Corporation. The federal TAA services were awarded due to a shift in production of laminated roll wraps to Singapore.

Affected workers at both firms 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.