



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laid-off Workers from Norris Rods in Tulsa Eligible for Trade Benefits

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (June 11, 2015) – Former workers of Norris Rods, Inc. in Tulsa have been ruled eligible for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). TAA provides assistance to those who lose jobs or significant work hours because of increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. TAA-certified workers can access services such as income support, relocation and job search allowances, and health coverage tax credits. Some may receive occupational training. The goal is to quickly reconnect laid-off workers with suitable employment.

In a recent ruling, the USDOL found that ex-employees of Norris Rods, Inc. meet all requirements to receive TAA according to the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2273). There are three criteria to qualify for TAA. First, workers must be laid off or threatened with layoff. Next, employer sales or production must decrease. Finally, increased imports of products like or directly competitive with the firm's products must contribute to layoffs or the threat of layoffs. Once certified, TAA recipients must enroll in training, although the state can waive this requirement in certain cases.

Former employees are also eligible for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), a program that provides workers 50 years and older for whom retraining may not be suitable with the option of accepting re-employment at a lower wage in return for a wage subsidy.

The USDOL report concludes "all workers of Norris Rods, Inc., a subsidiary of Dover Corporation, Tulsa, Oklahoma, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 8, 2014, through June 2, 2017, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Chapter 2 of Title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance under Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended." Separated employees who want to apply for TAA or ATAA should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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