



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2014

Employees of International Paper Co. May Be Eligible for Additional Benefits

COURTLAND – A petition certified on behalf of workers of International Paper Company in Courtland has been amended to include workers leased from Western Express who were employed on-site the Courtland plant.

Current and former employees of International Paper Company Paper Mill Printing & Communications Papers Division, a subsidiary of International Paper Company including on-site leased workers from Manpower, located in Courtland, who were engaged in activities related to the production of coated and uncoated freesheet paper, and are not separately identifiable by article produced, may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Act of 2011. The amendment was made by the U.S. Department of Labor on March 13, according to Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees.

The U. S. Department of Labor found that the workers may have become unemployed as a result of increased imports. The petition covers periods of unemployment occurring on or after Oct. 12, 2012 and before the termination date of Feb. 6, 2016. Under the TAA Act, displaced workers may be eligible for benefits such as training, job search and relocation assistance.

If workers have exhausted their cash benefits under other state and federal unemployment compensation programs, they could be eligible for additional weekly benefits equivalent to the amount

they were receiving under other programs. In order to receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, workers must be enrolled in training the later of 26 weeks after the certification date or after their last qualifying separation or a waiver of the training requirement must be granted by the state Employment Service Division of the Alabama Department of Labor.

International Paper Company was also certified for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA). Employees who are 50 years of age and older, who obtain full time employment after their separation from the affected employer, may be eligible for allowances under the ATAA program.

Surtees stated that potentially eligible individuals will be notified individually as soon as they are identified.

###

Members of the media seeking more information should contact Will Whatley at (334) 353-1548.