



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2011

Johnston Textile Employees May be Eligible for Additional Benefits

MONTGOMERY- Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that former employees of Johnston Textiles, Inc. Micolas Plant, including on-site leased workers of Ambassador Personnel located in Opp, Alabama who were engaged in the production of woven and finished fabric, may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (TGAAA). A petition filed on behalf of workers of Johnston Textiles, Inc. Micolas Plant in Opp, Alabama, was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on December 17, 2010.

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 December 1, 2009 and before the termination date of December 17, 2012. Under the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, displaced workers may be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits such as training, job search and relocation assistance, and Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). For additional information on the HCTC, they can call toll free 866-628-HCTC (4282), or visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov (IRS Keyword: HCTC).

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 Industrial Relations.

Johnston Textiles, Inc. Micolás Plant in Opp, Alabama, was also certified for Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). Employees who are 50 years of age and older, who obtain work after their separation from the affected employer, may be eligible for allowances under the RTAA program.

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

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.