



PROGRAM UPDATE

Office of Worker and Community Transition

United States Department of Energy

January - March 2000

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP IN JUNE 2000

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Worker and Community Transition plans to hold its Eighth National Stakeholder's Workshop on June 26-28, 2000, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. The Workshop will be designed to address a variety of work force restructuring, community transition, and asset management issues. For more information on the Workshop, please access our web site at www.wct.doe.gov.

WORKSHOP ON GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS AND EARLY CLOSURES

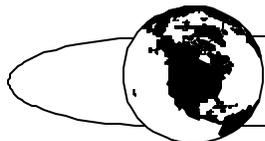
On March 6-8, 2000, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Worker and Community Transition held a Workshop on Gaseous Diffusion Plants and Early Closures in Cincinnati, Ohio. More than 130 representatives from Congress, local labor organizations, business-interest groups and DOE Headquarters and field personnel attended the Workshop. The purpose of the Workshop was to discuss work force management issues associated with early closures; potential steps to mitigate work force reductions at Portsmouth, Ohio and Paducah, Kentucky; and to receive direct feedback. The Honorable Ted Strickland, United States House of Representatives, presented the Congressional perspective and the status of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) was presented by James Adkins, Jr., Vice President of Production, USEC.

A Workshop summary report is being developed and will be mailed to all participants in the Workshop. If you did not attend the Workshop but would like a copy of the summary report, please mail us your request using the last page of this newsletter, e-mail us at www.wct.doe.gov or call Clara Foster at (202) 586-5881.

WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES

WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING PLAN FOR PORTSMOUTH AND PADUCAH

On February 4, 2000, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Worker and Community Transition released the draft work force restructuring plan for Portsmouth,



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Ohio and Paducah, Kentucky. On February 3, the United States Enrichment Corporation announced its intention to reduce approximately 850 positions at the Portsmouth and Paducah plants, beginning July 2000. The announcement indicates that the company has concluded that these reductions are required to respond to declining market conditions. Congressional staff from Ohio and Kentucky was briefed on February 4, 2000.

VOLUNTARY SEPARATION OPPORTUNITY TO BE OFFERED AT FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

On February 22, 2000, the Fernald Environmental Management Project advised its employees that an opportunity will be provided for up to 100 technical and management-salaried employees to participate in a voluntary separation program. No reduction in the hourly work force is anticipated. The program is being offered as a result of the recent reorganization by the contractor that allows scheduled work to be accomplished with a slightly smaller work force. It is anticipated that resulting savings will be utilized to accelerate direct cleanup activities.

The voluntary program, which is a part of the existing contract, provides participants with a payment equal to earned severance. Acceptance of applications will be determined based on skills mix requirements. Workers would separate no later than June 30, 2000, under the program.

VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAM OFFERED AT BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

On February 23, 2000, Brookhaven National Laboratory notified employees that it intends to provide an opportunity for workers in the Safeguards and Security Division and the Reactor Division to participate in a voluntary separation program. The program is being offered to address a need to reduce an estimated 20 to 25 positions during this fiscal year as a result of changing manpower requirements.

The voluntary program allows workers who choose to leave employment with a payment equal to earned severance, if their participation avoids the need for an involuntary separation program. The Laboratory intends to extend the offer Laboratory-wide if sufficient accepted volunteers are not found in the two directly impacted Divisions. In addition, it will continue steps to place any affected workers in other Laboratory positions, in order to further minimize the need for any involuntary separations later in the year.

CONTINUED WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING AT ROCKY FLATS, COLORADO

In February 2000, the Kaiser-Hill team of companies at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Site) advised the Department of Energy of its plans for continued work force restructuring



activities at the Site. The proposed restructuring activity is consistent with the announcement made on November 16, 1998, that 600 positions may be affected over the two to three years subsequent to the announcement.

Skill mix adjustments are planned to meet expedited closure targets safely, in full compliance with regulatory requirements. Up to 350 reductions could occur within the Site work force over the next few months, with additional adjustments from lower tier subcontractors. The intent of the adjustments is to improve management efficiency through reduced administrative and support positions with offsetting increases in hourly positions. No reductions are anticipated in hourly positions and overall Site employment is expected to remain relatively stable as a result of this restructuring. The transition will have no impact on the commitments made to any of the Site's various unions, which will be fully honored.

The Kaiser-Hill team proposes to accomplish necessary reductions through involuntary separations, given the skills mix focus of the adjustments. The Office of Worker and Community Transition anticipates a request for funding to support benefits consistent with those included in the current Rocky Flats Work Force Restructuring Plan, including medical, training, career transition/outplacement, relocation, and preference-in-hiring benefits.

HANFORD WORK FORCE ADJUSTMENTS

The Department of Energy's Office of Worker and Community Transition (the Office) was advised on March 17, 2000, that CH2M Hill had identified 73 positions excess to requirements as a result of project completion. CH2M Hill, a contractor under the Office of River Protection, worked with other Hanford site employees to identify employees who can fill more than 300 currently vacant positions among these contractors. Efforts to place remaining impacted employees are ongoing.

COMMUNITY TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

In January 2000, the Office of Worker and Community Transition approved \$100,000 in community transition funding to the Albuquerque Operations Office. The funding was made available to Strategic Learning Services (SLS) for use in identifying ways the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) can contribute to the economic development of Northern New Mexico. The project is managed by LANL under a contract to SLS. These community transition funds will enable SLS to continue to provide LANL's Small Business Office with support in promoting Northern New Mexico suppliers through procurement opportunities.

In January 2000, the Office of Worker and Community Transition approved \$100,000 in community transition funding to the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, the local community reuse organization (CRO). The funding will be used for administration purposes to provide a mechanism for the local governments in the vicinity of Rocky Flats to work together on issues of mutual concern.



In February 2000, the Office of Worker and Community Transition approved \$50,000 in community transition funding to the Pinellas CRO. The funding will be used for administration of the CRO.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DOCUMENT(S)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

Street address: _____

City and state: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

DOCUMENTS REQUESTED:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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FAX OR MAIL TO: Ms. Clara M. Foster
Office of Worker and Community Transition, WT-1
Forrestal Building, Room 6E-034
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585-0110
Fax: 202-586-1540

Ms. Clara M. Foster
Office of Worker and Community Transition, WT-1
Forrestal Building, Room 6E-034
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585-0110