



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Trade Benefits Approved for Laid-off Workers of DMI Industries in Tulsa

*Special Status Granted to Former Employees by the U.S. Department of Labor*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (June 12, 2013) – Former workers of DMI Industries in Tulsa who were laid off are now eligible for the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program. TRA provides assistance to those who lose jobs or significant work hours because of increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. TRA-certified workers can access services such as income support, relocation and job search allowances, and health coverage tax credits. Those that need retraining for suitable employment may receive occupational training. The goal is to quickly reconnect laid-off workers with suitable employment.

In a recent ruling, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) found that ex-employees of DMI Industries, a company engaged in activities related to the production of utility scale wind towers, meet all requirements to receive TRA according to the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2273). There are three criteria to qualify for TRA. 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, TRA recipients must enroll in training, although the state can waive this requirement in certain cases.

The USDOL report concludes "all workers of DMI Industries, Inc., a subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation, ... including onsite leased workers from Volt Services, Manpower, Spherion Staffing, and Preference Personnel, Tulsa, Oklahoma, who became totally or partially separated from that employment on or after February 13, 2012, through June 4, 2013, and who become totally or partially separated from that employment from June 4, 2013, through February 13, 2014, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Chapter 2 of Title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended." Separated employees who want to apply for TRA should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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