



## News Release

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### **Workers at Evansville's Whirlpool Corporation eligible for federal aid**

INDIANAPOLIS (January 9, 2007) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Evansville's Whirlpool Corporation, Evansville Manufacturing Division, are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released.

The Department of Labor determined that employment and production at the Evansville facility declined during January through October 2006 as compared with the corresponding 2005 period. The investigation further revealed that the company increased their imports of refrigerators during the relevant period. The findings were certified on December 5, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after November 7, 2005 through December 5, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Evansville Whirlpool facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

The Department of Workforce Development has been preparing to assist workers who are affected by the recent layoffs to ensure that individuals can receive information and benefits that will help them ensure a successful return to work.

Eligible parties may contact the Evansville WorkOne at (812) 424-4473, the Vincennes WorkOne at (812) 882-8770, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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