



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FORMER WORKERS OF BAYER PHARMACEUTICALS ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT EXTENSION

### *Special Status Granted to Company's Oklahoma Employees Under Trade Act of 1974*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Laid-off workers of **Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corp** in Oklahoma who have exhausted their unemployment benefits are eligible for the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program. Established by the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2273), the TRA program provides additional unemployment compensation to individuals who lose their jobs or a significant portion of their work hours due to increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. The goal is to help laid-off workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible.

To qualify for TRA, workers must meet three criteria: 1) they must be laid off or threatened with layoff; 2) sales or production must have decreased; and 3) increases in imports of products like or directly competitive with products made by the firm must contribute to layoffs or the threat of layoffs. An added condition is that workers must be enrolled in training either eight (8) weeks after certification or 16 weeks after their last qualifying separation from adversely affected employment. The state may also grant a waiver of training enrollment to remove this qualification for some individuals.

The U.S. Department of Labor ruling establishing these benefits concludes “all workers of Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corp, located in Oklahoma, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 1, 2002, through October 24, 2005, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974.” The first day of eligibility for TRA (date of certification) is February 1, 2005. Separated employees who would like to take advantage of this assistance should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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