



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EX-WORKERS OF ALCATEL-LUCENT IN OKLAHOMA CITY NOW ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE BENEFITS

### *Special Status Granted to Laid-off Employees Under Trade Act of 1974*

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK** (February 19, 2009) – Former employees of Alcatel-Lucent in Oklahoma City, Okla. have been ruled eligible for the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). 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 reconnect laid-off workers with suitable employment quickly.

In a recent ruling, the USDOL found that those who formerly worked at Alcatel-Lucent 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. TRA recipients must enroll in training eight weeks after certification or 16 weeks after their last qualifying separation from adversely affected employment, although the state can waive this requirement in certain cases.

The USDOL report concludes "all workers of Alcatel-Lucent, Direct Fulfillment Team, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after June 13, 2007, through two years from the date of certification are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance..." The first day of eligibility (date of certification) is June 24, 2008. 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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