

petitioning worker eligibility for TAA benefits in the current investigation.

The TAA termination of the previous case (TA-W-39, 052) relates to the discovery that, during the verification process, it was revealed that the Bechtel Jacobs LLC workers were employed by USEC and terminated during the relevant period of the USEC TAA certification and thus could be considered eligible under that certification. Since the workers were impacted at USEC during the relevant period, those workers may qualify as terminated workers and thus meet the eligibility requirements as laid off workers of USEC during the relevant period. Thus the decision was made by the Union to withdraw the petition at that time since the workers could qualify under the USEC TAA certification.

Therefore, the petitioning group of workers transfer from USEC to a new company (Bechtel Jacobs) doesn't qualify a TAA certification under the name of Bechtel Jacobs. Bechtel Jacobs workers who were eligible for trade adjustment assistance in the USEC certification met eligibility requirements only because they had been separated from USEC, and thus the state was able to qualify the Bechtel Jacobs workers as separated USEC employees.

As already indicated, since the petitioning worker group in this investigation was not engaged in production, but performed a service (environmental management services and site restoration activities) for an unaffiliated firm, they do not qualify for eligibility under the Trade Act of 1974.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the workers at the subject firm did not produce an article within the meaning of Section 222(3) of the Trade Act of 1974.

After review of the application and investigative findings, I conclude that there has been no error or misinterpretation of the law or of the facts which would justify reconsideration of the Department of Labor's prior decision. Accordingly, the application is denied.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 18th day of March, 2003.

**Edward A. Tomchick,**

*Director, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

[TA-W-50,386]

#### **Burelbach Industries, Incorporated, Rickreal, OR; Notice of Negative Determination Regarding Application for Reconsideration**

By application of February 10, 2003, a petitioner requested administrative reconsideration of the Department's negative determination regarding eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), applicable to workers and former workers of the subject firm. The denial notice was signed on January 13, 2003, and published in the **Federal Register** on February 6, 2003 (68 FR 6211).

Pursuant to 29 CFR 90.18(c) reconsideration may be granted under the following circumstances:

- (1) If it appears on the basis of facts not previously considered that the determination complained of was erroneous;
- (2) If it appears that the determination complained of was based on a mistake in the determination of facts not previously considered; or
- (3) If in the opinion of the Certifying Officer, a misinterpretation of facts or of the law justified reconsideration of the decision.

The petition for the workers of Burelbach Industries, Inc., Rickreal, Oregon was denied because the "upstream supplier" group eligibility requirement of section 222(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, was not met. The "upstream supplier" requirement is fulfilled when the workers' firm (or subdivision) is a supplier to a firm that employed a group of workers who received a certification of eligibility to apply for trade adjustment assistance benefits and such supply or production is related to the article that was the basis for such certification. The workers of Burelbach Industries, Inc., Rickreal, Oregon did not act as an upstream supplier to a trade certified firm.

The petitioner appears to allege that he is applying for trade adjustment assistance on behalf of workers that are import impacted on primary and secondary grounds.

When addressing the issue of import impact, the Department considers imports of products "like or directly competitive" in the case of primary impacted firms, or whether the subject firm supplied a component in a product produced by a trade certified firm in the case of secondary impact. As neither the

subject firm nor its major declining customers reported imports like or directly competitive with the sawmill equipment produced at the subject firm, primary import impact did not occur. As the subject firm did not produce a component used in the products of their customers, the allegation of secondary import impact is equally invalid.

The petitioner notes that several of the subject firm's customers have been certified for trade adjustment assistance due to import impact and thus appears to imply that the petitioning workers should be eligible for TAA.

As already noted, the declining customers of the subject firm do not import products like or directly competitive with those produced at the subject firm. Further, the subject firm produces sawmill equipment that is used to process timber, but as the equipment does not form a component part of the products produced at the customer firms, subject firm workers do not constitute upstream suppliers of trade certified firms.

The petitioner provides a list of other trade certified firms, claiming that these firms produced the same type of products as the subject firm, and thus appears to allege that the petitioning workers in this case should also be certified.

None of the three firms listed by the petitioner produce products like or directly competitive with the sawmill machinery produced by the subject firm. Of the trade certified firms listed, two were certified on the basis of increased company imports of products like or directly competitive with those produced at the subject firms. In the case of the other firm, workers were certified on the basis of increased customer imports of products like or directly competitive with those produced at the subject firm. In contrast to the trade certified firms described above, neither Burelbach Industries nor its customers reported imports of competitive sawmill machinery.

### Conclusion

After review of the application and investigative findings, I conclude that there has been no error or misinterpretation of the law or of the facts which would justify reconsideration of the Department of Labor's prior decision. Accordingly, the application is denied.

Signed in Washington, DC, this 25th day of March, 2003.

**Edward A. Tomchick,**

*Director, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 03-8356 Filed 4-4-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

[TA-W-51,007]

#### **Cedar Creek Fibers, LLC, Formerly Wellman, Inc., Fayetteville, NC; Notice of Termination of Investigation**

Pursuant to section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, an investigation was initiated on February 27, 2003, in response to a worker petition filed on behalf of workers at Cedar Creek Fibers, LLC, formerly Wellman, Inc., Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The petitioning group of workers is covered by an active certification issued on September 19, 2002 (TA-W-41,409). Consequently, the investigation has been terminated.

Signed at Washington, DC this 25th day of March 2003.

**Richard Church,**

*Certifying Officer, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

[TA-W-50,184]

#### **Corning Cable Systems, LLC, Business Operation Services—OpitiCon Network Manager, Hickory, NC; Notice of Negative Determination Regarding Application for Reconsideration**

By application postmarked January 2, 2003, a petitioner requested administrative reconsideration of the Department's negative determination regarding eligibility for workers and former workers of the subject firm to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). The denial notice applicable to workers of Corning Cable Systems, LLC, Business Operation Services—OpitiCon Network Manager, Hickory, North Carolina was signed on December 20, 2002, and published in the **Federal Register** on January 9, 2003 (67 FR 1199).

Pursuant to 29 CFR 90.18(c) reconsideration may be granted under the following circumstances:

(1) if it appears on the basis of facts not previously considered that the determination complained of was erroneous;

(2) if it appears that the determination complained of was based on a mistake in the determination of facts not previously considered; or

(3) if in the opinion of the Certifying Officer, a mis-interpretation of facts or of the law justified reconsideration of the decision.

The TAA petition was filed on behalf of workers at Corning Cable Systems, LLC, Business Operation Services—OpitiCon Network Manager, Hickory, North Carolina engaged in activities related to data entry. The petition was denied because the petitioning workers did not produce an article within the meaning of section 222(3) of the Act.

The petitioner alleges that the reason subject firm workers were listed in the **Federal Register** as having been denied was on the basis "that criterion (2) has not been met \* \* \* the workers firm (or subdivision) is not a supplier or downstream producer for trade affected companies."

In fact, the petitioner mistakenly quotes the paragraph below the listing of TA-W-50,184, when the correct paragraph citing the reason for the negative determination was above the listing. The relevant paragraph reads as follows: "the workers firm does not produce an article as required for certification under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974."

The petitioner alleges that "several other groups from the same company and same town got coverage" and that, on that basis, the petitioning worker group should also be considered eligible. The petitioner also appears to allege that, because the company marketed various products and services together as a "Total Solutions" package, all worker groups should be equally eligible.

In fact, only one other worker group has been TAA and NAFTA-TAA certified for Corning Cable Systems in Hickory, North Carolina. This worker group produced cable assembly hardware, which, unlike the data entry performed by the petitioning worker group, constitutes a product within the meaning of section 222 of the Trade Act. Further, the subject firm's marketing strategy in selling products and services in a package does not create the affiliation required for service in support of production. Service workers must perform a function that directly supports the production of the certified

worker group in order to be eligible for trade adjustment assistance. In this case, the petitioning worker group performs data entry for the purpose of creating independent databases, and do not contribute to the production of cable assembly hardware of the worker group certified at the same facility.

The petitioner also asserts that the subject firm did not correctly address the petitioning worker group's function in describing their job duties as "data entry", implying that there were much more complex functions involved, and that the description does not properly take into account the "technological knowledge and skills" of the petitioning workers.

The sophistication of the work involved is not an issue in ascertaining whether the petitioning workers are eligible for trade adjustment assistance, but rather only whether they produced an article within the meaning of section 222(3) of the Trade Act of 1974.

The petitioner appears to allege that, because petitioning workers "built virtual networks for fiber management," their work should be considered production.

Virtual networks are not considered production of an article within the meaning of section 222(3) of the Trade Act.

The petitioner appears to allege that, on the basis that that petitioning workers produced an article within the meaning of a dictionary definition provided in the request for reconsideration, the worker group should be eligible for trade adjustment assistance.

Petitioning workers do not produce an "article" within the meaning of the Trade Act of 1974. Databases are not tangible commodities, that is, marketable products, and they are not listed on the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), published by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC), Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements, which describes all articles imported to or exported from the United States. Furthermore, when a Nomenclature Analyst of the USITC was contacted in regards to whether virtual networks and databases provided by subject firm workers fit into any existing HTS basket categories, the Department was informed that no such categories exist.

In addition, the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program was established to help workers who produce articles and who lose their jobs as a result of trade agreements. Throughout the Trade Act an article is often referenced as something that can