



*For More Information, Contact:*

*Larry Parker/919.733.4329*

*Andy James*

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## **Trade Adjustment Assistance Approved For Consolidated Metco**

**RALEIGH** — North Carolina's Employment Security Commission today announced that workers who lost their jobs from Consolidated Metco in Bryson City have been certified eligible to receive special assistance in finding new jobs or entering training programs.

ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. made the announcement following notification from the U.S. Dept. of Labor concerning approval of a Trade Adjustment Assistance petition filed by a company official. The Federal Trade Act provides special benefits under TAA to those workers who were laid off, or had hours reduced because their employer was adversely affected by increased imports or services from other countries or, there was a shift in production/supply of services to other countries.

The affected workers may be eligible to receive benefits, which include: cost of up to three years in a training program (tuition, books & fees); up to 156 weeks of weekly unemployment allowances (while attending training); job search and relocation allowances, and Health Coverage Tax Credit. The average cost of an agency approved two-year training program in North Carolina is currently \$5,000-\$6,000.

Workers who are 50 years or older may be eligible for the Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which is an alternative for older workers who wish to return to employment. Individuals who lost their jobs from Consolidated Metco, since May 21, 2008, may be eligible to receive additional unemployment insurance benefits, assistance for retraining, relocation or job search allowances, HCTC, and RTAA under the Trade Act Program.

In order to determine an individual's eligibility to receive these benefits, they should contact the nearest Employment Security Commission office to request benefits. The ESC is a partner of the North Carolina JobLink Career Center system.

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This information may be accessed on the ESC's World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>