



DOL News Brief

February 18, 2010

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OSHA Responds to Explosion

On Feb. 7 an explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems Power Plant in Middletown, Conn., killed 5 people and injured 46 others. Investigators from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were quickly on the scene participating in a comprehensive investigation of the plant in conjunction with other federal agencies. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends and loved ones of those workers killed in Middletown. The safety and health of workers is of paramount importance to me and to the U.S. Department of Labor," said Secretary Solis. The investigation is still ongoing.

Safety to the "Extreme"



Last Sunday, the ABC hit show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" featured some very special guests: Secretary Solis and students from the carpentry, electrical

and facility maintenance career programs at the Woodland and Potomac Job Corps Centers. The student volunteers, selected for both their specific skill sets and how well they have developed within their trades, traveled to Hyattsville, Md. to build a new home for a local family. Solis traveled to the show's second "build," the Fishing School — a youth and family support organization in northeast Washington, D.C., where she stressed construction safety.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Watch the Extreme Makeover](#)

"OSHA Listens" on March 4

On account of the record-breaking snow that blanketed the nation's capital last week, OSHA has rescheduled the "OSHA Listens" public meeting for March 4. The meeting's goal is to solicit comments and suggestions from OSHA



stakeholders on key issues facing the agency. While attendance for the event is full and registration is closed, a live Webcast of the meeting will be available from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST on March 4.

What's Hot

Recovery: Day 365

On Wednesday, Secretary Solis and Representative Ed Pastor (Ariz-4) observed the one-year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by visiting the Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) in Phoenix, Ariz. YouthBuild students at LCSA are receiving green-construction training funded by the Recovery Act while retrofitting a building. "I am proud that Recovery Act investments are helping young people in Phoenix — and workers across the nation — acquire valuable professional skills," said Solis. She also highlighted the full range of Recovery-funded initiatives at DOL, and pointed to the more than 90,000 jobs that the Department's efforts have created thus far.



Earlier that same day, Assistant Secretary Phyllis Borzi was in Pennsylvania, where she discussed how the Recovery Act and the Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration are helping American workers and their families retain health benefits.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the White House Release](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read Sec. Solis' Remarks](#)

More Than \$225 Million in Health Care and High Growth Grants

The Department has announced more than \$225 million in health care and high growth training grants funded by the Recovery Act. The grants will help community colleges, community-based organizations, state workforce agencies and other public entities to deliver training to 47,000 individuals. "These Recovery Act funded grants will ensure thousands of workers across the nation can receive high-quality training and employment services, which will lead to good jobs in health care and other industries offering career-track employment with good pay and benefits," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

National News

E-RIC Brings \$130 Million (and Jobs) to Energy Efficiency

Seven federal agencies have come together to roll out a new Obama Administration initiative that will spur economic growth and job creation in energy-efficient building technologies. The Energy Regional Innovation Cluster (E-RIC) initiative will award \$129.7 million over five years to create a

- [Visit the Webcast page](#)

Shiu is Caregiver of the Year



Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs Director Patricia Shiu has been named a recipient of Caregiver.com's "Caregiver of the Year" award. Launched in 1995, the annual recognition puts the spotlight on the importance of caregivers, and it honors the enormous impact these

individuals have within their families and communities. For providing legislative and legal advocacy for caregivers, and for her personal efforts during her sister's ongoing battle with cancer, Shiu was nominated by the Legal Aid Society — Employment Law Center, Labor Project for Working Families, Equal Rights Advocates, and the California Women's Law Center.

Job Corps Hits the Airwaves

"This is Job Corps" — a one hour radio program on Oregon's KMUN radio (the public broadcast station for the Oregon North Coast) airs the third Sunday of each month.



The program highlights the efforts and accomplishments of students at the Tongue Point Job Corps Center in Astoria, Ore. It also reports on community events of the past month. The show's broadcast scheduled for Sunday, February 21 will spotlight the President's Applause Award, which was given by the Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce to Tongue Point students and staff in recognition of their contributions to the local community.

- [Listen to the Broadcast](#)

"One-Stop" to Green in Pima



On Tuesday, Secretary Solis visited the Pima County One-Stop Center in Tucson, Ariz., for a roundtable with Representatives Raul Grijalva (Ariz.-7) and Gabrielle Giffords (Ariz.- 8). The

Secretary and the Members of Congress discussed green jobs training with an emphasis on veterans and the unemployed. Secretary Solis also visited Las Artes youth program which combines art and education to enrich the lives of at-risk youth. Structured training allows students to work on their academic studies while learning the art of mosaic murals.

regional energy efficiency research center. DOL is committed to connecting the Workforce Investment System and our current grantees with E-RIC partners. This will ensure that workers are ready to take jobs created through the initiative.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn How to Apply for Funding](#)

DOL Working For You

Hooping it for Haiti

Students and staff at Job Corps centers nationwide have sprung into action raising money and sponsoring clothing and food drives to help victims of the Haitian earthquake disaster. Phoenix Job Corps center students donated money for "dress down days" and held a community car wash with funds donated to the American Red Cross. Treasure Island's (San Francisco) center planned a "Hoops for Haiti" basketball fundraiser with games and free throw contests while Muhlenberg (Kentucky), Charleston (West Virginia) and other centers planned bake sales to raise funds.



The earthquake hit home for many Job Corps students of Haitian origin, like Jameson Henris, who with his colleague Lojuan Lake (both pictured here) of Jacksonville's (Florida) Job Corps Center, joined others in sorting and loading food donations for humanitarian aid organizations. Pittsburgh Job Corps sent students who spoke Creole to help comfort rescued Haitian orphans arriving in their city.

Job Corps' Interim National Director Lynn Intrepidi added, "Through this work, we will develop a greater awareness of our neighbors, both down the street and around the world."

News You Can Use

Does Your Idea Rise to the Top?

DOL has launched a new Web site for you to share ideas about how we can be more open and transparent. Rather than a traditional "suggestion box," the site allows you to share, discuss, comment, and vote on your favorite ideas. The most popular ideas "rise to the top." We'll use your suggestions to help better serve you and to develop an Open Government Plan — our roadmap to incorporate increased transparency, participation, and collaboration into our core mission.

- [Share Your Ideas](#)
- [Learn More About Open Government at DOL](#)

H1N1 Influenza Vaccination at Veterans Affairs

Federal health care workers or emergency support staff including first responders, persons potentially deployed for disaster relief services, and critical federal government staff in operational or regulatory positions are eligible for free vaccination against H1N1 influenza through the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Departments and agencies who would like to have eligible staff vaccinated at the VA should call or email the Veterans Health Administration H1N1 Coordination Center at (202) 461-1059 or VHAH1N1CC@va.gov.

- [Learn More About the Vaccination Program](#)

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Spotlight: Buscas Trabajo?

Univision Radio is hosting a job fair at the McAllen (Texas) Convention Center on February 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Participants include the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Census Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, a range of energy companies, call centers, and other employers.

- [February 25, 2010 - McAllen, TX](#)

MSHA — Florida Mine Safety, Health and Environmental Conference

- [February 22-25, 2010 - Kissimmee, FL](#)

MSHA — Mine Rescue Technician Team Workshop

- [February 22, 2010 - Maysville, KY](#)

ODEP — We're Listening

- [February 24, 2010 - Atlanta, GA](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development and Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [February 23, 2010 - Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [February 25, 2010 - Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — ADA and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended Seminar

- [February 19, 2010 - Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — ARRA Webinar for NEW Federal Construction Contractors

- [February 25, 2010 - New York, NY](#)

OFCCP — ARRA Webinar for NEW Federal Supply & Service Contractors

- [February 25, 2010 - New York, NY](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance - Basic Supply and Service Technical Assistance with ARRA Updates

- [February 25, 2010 - Seattle, WA](#)

OFCCP — Webinar - ABC's of Compliance for Construction Contractors

- [February 25, 2010 - Portland, OR](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Construction Contractors

- [February 25, 2010 - Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [February 25, 2010 - Fresno, CA](#)

Around DOL

Congratulations to Wage & Hour's 107 Newest Graduates



Last week, 107 members of the Wage & Hour staff completed their Basic I Investigator Training. Wage & Hour Deputy Administrator Nancy Leppink was on hand to congratulate the division's largest and most diverse class of new investigators ever. The graduates completed an intensive three-week training on the investigative process and application of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Despite its name, "Basic I" is not exactly for beginners — prerequisites to the course include completion of a comprehensive, 12-week pre-training, and a minimum of three months of on-the-job training. Wage & Hour is currently preparing for a second group of new field investigators for Basic I.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Igasaki and Brown Appointed to Administrative Review Board

Secretary Solis has appointed Paul Igasaki as chair of the Administrative Review Board (ARB) and Cooper Brown to serve as vice chair. Igasaki has served as vice chair, chair, and commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Most recently, he was deputy chief executive officer of Equal Justice Works in Washington, D.C. Brown is a returning member to the ARB, having been appointed under Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. He recently served as chief administrative appeals judge for the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services Compensation Review Board. As part of the ARB, Igasaki and Brown will issue final decisions for more than 40 federal statutes.

DOL in Action

Fighting for Pennsylvanians

Following work related fatalities at two Pennsylvania companies — C.A. Franc and Mariani & Richards Inc. — the Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed more than \$600,000 in fines for failure to provide workers with fall protection. Both companies were also cited for willful violations. "We will not tolerate this type of blatant and egregious disregard for the health and safety of workers," said Assistant Secretary Michaels. In a related criminal charge, the owner of C.A. Franc entered a guilty plea in federal court.

- [Read the C.A. Franc Release](#)
- [Read the Mariani & Richards Release](#)

\$1.9 Million in Back Wages to Workers at N.J. Computer Firm

The Department has found Peri Software Solutions Inc. in violation of the H-1B provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, uncovering nearly \$1.9 million in back wages to 163 workers. An investigation by the Wage and Hour Division found that the Newark-based company failed to pay the required prevailing wage to workers hired as computer analysts under the H-1B program. Investigators also found that the company forced employees to sign employment contracts and then sued them when those contracts were broken. "Every worker deserves to be paid for his or her work, and the Labor Department is committed to holding those companies that violate our nation's labor laws accountable," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Opportunities are Open: Workforce Investment

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Supply and Service Contractors

- [February 26, 2010 - Richmond, VA](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [February 23, 2010 - Monroe, OH](#)
- [February 23, 2010 - Burr Ridge, IL](#)
- [February 24, 2010 - Toledo, OH](#)
- [February 25, 2010 - Texarkana, AR](#)
- [February 25, 2010 - Indianapolis, IN](#)

WB — CA Working Families Policy Summit

- [February 25, 2010 - Sacramento, CA](#)

WB — Green Jobs: What Women Need to Know

- [February 24, 2010 - Denver, CO](#)

At the Department of Labor, we are investing in the future of the Nation's workforce. Whether it is recruiting talented individuals or managing innovative employment training programs, our job is to prepare Americans for emerging, high-growth industries. Explore the positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Position in the Chicago Metro Area
[Workforce Development Specialist — GS-0142-12/12](#)
DE-10-CHI-JC-0061
Close: 02/22/2010
2. Position in Washington DC Metro Area
[Human Resources Specialist — GS-0201-11/11](#)
DE-10-HRC-HRC-076
Close: 02/22/2010
3. Position in Washington DC Metro Area
[Supervisory Program Analyst — GS-0343-14/14](#)
DE-10-ETA-023
Close: 02/22/2010

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