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DOE

COMMUNITY TRANSITION FUNDING APPROVED FOR HANFORD

The Department of Energy today approved \$11 million to the Tri-City Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC) to mitigate the adverse impacts of defense-related downsizing at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington.

With the end of the Cold War and Hanford's changing mission, the prime contractor work force at the site has been reduced from over 17,000 in 1994 to under 12,500 by the end of 1996. These cuts represent a 25 percent work force reduction, but do not include the additional impacts on subcontractor employment. Since 1994, for example, approximately 4,800 positions have been cut.

The community transition grants will be administered through the Department's Richland Operations Office. TRIDEC, the local community reuse organization, proposes to fund twelve primary projects in the areas of: (1) industry and marketing programs that would promote opportunities in the Tri-Cities and Benton and Franklin counties; (2) business assistance programs that would supply technical assistance, venture capital and technology development to create jobs; and (3) community planning programs in land use and downsizing.

The \$11 million in funding for TRIDEC will contribute to the following: (1) generate contact with 1,000-1,500 companies outside the Tri-Cities area; (2) service 2,700-3,000 customers including new entrepreneurs, small, minority and women-owned businesses, (3) create 650-700 new jobs; (4) retain 150-200 jobs; and (5) generate \$40 million to \$50 million in economic benefits over the next 2 years.

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