



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE of the COMMISSIONER
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GEORGE M. BALD
Commissioner

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September 11, 2009

FHWA New Hampshire Division
19 Chenell Drive, Suite One
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Economically Disadvantaged Area

For the purposes implementing the Highway Infrastructure Investment appropriation provision, The State of NH has reviewed the criteria for determination of whether an area is economically distressed pursuant to the "special need" provision in section 301(a)(3) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161). While the State does not meet the criteria provided by the map, it does meet the special need criteria under PWEDA through the criteria detailed below:

"Actual Business Closure or Restructuring. An area has experienced an actual closure or restructuring of one or more businesses within the past twelve (12) months, resulting in sudden job losses and

b. For areas with population up to 100,000 the actual or threatened dislocation is 200 jobs, or 1 percent of the Civilian Labor Force, whichever is greater. The average civilian labor force in Coos County over the latest 12 months (August 2008-July 2009) was 16,538. One percent of the CLF would be 165 jobs. The 200 job loss minimum is greater than the one percent of the CLF, so that would be the operative threshold. The latest available Covered Employment data for Coos County is from 2008. Average Covered Employment in Coos County dropped from 13,902 in 2007 to 13,553, a decline of 349 jobs. This disguises the rapidly declining jobs. From 4Q2007 to 4Q2008 Covered Employment dropped from 13,868 to 13,273, a loss of 595 jobs.

The actual job loss in Coos County is greater than the threshold, regardless of whether a change in the annual average from 2007 to 2008, or the change from 4Q2007 to 4Q2008 is used.

Based on the actual job loss, Coos County appears to qualify under Special Need Circumstance 1 - Actual Business Closure or Restructuring

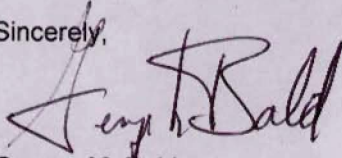
Also, the State of NH has documented the following sudden job losses in Coos County in the last twelve months:

In March, 2009 the Ethan Allen Plant in Beecher Falls, VT, (directly across the border from West Stewartstown and Colebrook, NH) laid-off 98 employees, of which 49 workers resided in NH. The plant closed its production facility on 8/28/2009. This resulted in the loss of an additional 237 jobs, of which 153 workers reside in NH. This closure alone resulted in a loss of 202 full-time Coos County jobs and meets the threshold for special need under the Federal Highway's definition.

Average monthly job loss, as reflected in new initial claims, has been 234 per month, or 2831 for the past 12 months.

Given the information above, the State of NH has determined that Coos County is an economically disadvantaged area pursuant to the "special need" provision in section 301(a)(3) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George M. Bald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "ald" at the end.

George M. Bald
Commissioner

GMB:CW:lc