

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Dallas, Texas
ESA-OFCCP-07-1477-DAL

For Immediate Release
Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007
Contact: Diana Petterson or Elizabeth Todd
Phone: (214) 767-4776, ext. 222 or 221

Following U.S. Labor Department investigation, Tetra Applied Technologies in Houston agrees to pay \$145,000 to 109 applicants rejected based on race

HOUSTON — The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) today announced that Houston-based Tetra Applied Technologies LLC has settled the department’s allegations that the company engaged in hiring discrimination based on race regarding the position of laborer.

“The Labor Department is committed to ensuring that people seeking employment with federal contractors and subcontractors are hired, promoted and compensated fairly, without regard to their race, sex, ethnicity, disability, religion or veteran status,” said OFCCP Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles E. James Sr. “This settlement of \$145,000 on behalf of 109 applicants should put all federal contractors on notice that the department is working diligently toward eliminating systemic discrimination.”

OFCCP investigators found that black applicants were disproportionately eliminated from consideration for employment as compared to other similarly-situated applicants.

Under the terms of the conciliation agreement, Tetra Applied Technologies will pay 109 black applicants \$145,000 in back pay and interest, and will hire 14 members of the class into laborer positions. The company has agreed to immediately correct any discriminatory practice and undertake extensive self-monitoring measurements for two years to ensure that all hiring practices fully comply with the law. Additionally, the company will ensure compliance with recordkeeping requirements.

Tetra Applied Technologies provides services required for the abandonment of depleted oil and gas wells and the decommissioning of platforms, pipelines and other associated equipment, serving the onshore U.S. Gulf Coast region and the inland waters and offshore markets of the Gulf of Mexico.

OFCCP, an agency of the Department of Labor’s Employment Standards Administration, enforces Executive Order 11246 and other laws that prohibit employment discrimination by federal contractors. The agency monitors federal contractors to ensure that they provide equal employment opportunities without regard to race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability or veteran status.

###

U.S. Department of Labor releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office upon request. Please specify which news release when placing your request at (202) 693-7828 or TTY (202) 693-7755. The Labor Department is committed to providing America’s employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance.