

DOE awards \$300,000 block grant to Tri-City Industrial Development Council

Last week, the Department of Energy announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Tri-City Industrial Development Council to assist in economic-development efforts.

“The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites,” Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. “We will continue to work with the Tri-City Industrial Development Council and other community reuse organizations around the country to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts.”

The grant will provide \$225,000 for program administration and \$75,000 toward the Community Image Campaign. The Community Image Campaign will involve a media strategy that identifies and works with targeted trade and travel journalists to showcase the assets of the Tri-Cities area to industry leaders and encourage them to consider the area for new plant development and business expansion.

In 1994, the economic-development organizations surrounding the Hanford Site designated TRIDEC as the Hanford Community Reuse Organization. Such organizations are recognized by DOE and can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at DOE facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

TRIDEC's goal is to assist the communities affected by the ultimate closure of the Hanford Site, the primary employment source for more than 50 years. This goal will be accomplished through the redeployment of the highly skilled, well-trained and educated workforce by identifying and implementing programs that will develop into possible job opportunities for displaced Hanford Site workers. ■