

7/16/09 - #7
Kraus**Theresa Utton-Jerman - DEC Lab Story**

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Date: 7/15/2009 4:33 PM
Subject: DEC Lab Story

Hi Theresa,

The JFC may find the below article of interest if they're discussing the DEC Lab.

Thanks,
Conor

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Courage, my friends; 'tis not too late to build a better world.
Tommy Douglas

Laid-off state analysts find new jobs working for old boss

By Terri Hallenbeck

MONTPELIER -- Tracey Footer and Randy Mercurio were laid off from their jobs at the state's environmental lab this winter. Now, they may both end up testing Vermont lab samples just as they used to, but from a lab 800 miles away.

Both Footer and Mercurio have landed jobs with the North Carolina company where Vermont's samples are sent now that the state no longer has the analysts on staff to do the work.

The irony is not lost on Footer: She went through a layoff, is packing up to leave her home state to do the very same work she had been doing. "It's pretty funny," she said.

Mercurio, an environmental analyst at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation lab, was the first to get hired at Eastern Research Group in the Raleigh/Durham area of North Carolina, which is among the few labs in the country certified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

ERG received a bigger federal contract this year and was looking to hire more staff, Footer said. Mercurio recommended his fellow laid-off co-worker. She starts June 1.

EPA pays for the testing at ERG, just as it paid for Vermont to do the samples, acting DEC Commissioner Justin Johnson said.

Footer said it pains her to see Vermont shipping the samples, and the work, out of state. On the upside, she'll be making more money in her new job.