



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON DC 20420

MAY 22 1996

Chiefs, Human Resources Management Service/Division
(Facilities with AFGE units)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a memorandum to Presidents, all AFGE Locals, regarding Notification of Reduction in Force (RIF). You should provide a copy of this memorandum to the local union upon receipt for their information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melvin Weinstein".

Melvin Weinstein
Deputy Director,
Labor-Management Relations Service

Enclosure

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: MAY 22 1996
From: Deputy Director, Labor-Management Relations Service (051)
Subj: Notification of Reduction in Force (RIF)
To: Presidents, AFGE Locals

1. As provided by Article 22, Section 2, of the Master Agreement between VA and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), attached is a copy of a letter to Ms. Alma Lee, President of the AFGE National VA Council on the above subject.
2. This notification was provided because, based on anticipated Fiscal Year 1997 funding levels, as well as restructuring initiatives, VA may need to conduct reductions in force with the potential for 150 or more employees receiving specific notices of separation under RIF procedures.
3. While the numbers, types and grades of positions, if any, that may be affected at your facility are not as yet known, you will be provided additional information by your facility management as soon as it is available. Meanwhile, questions may be directed to your Human Resources Management Service or Division.



Melvin Weinstein

Attachment



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MAY 16 1996

Ms. Alma Lee
President, National VA Council
American Federation of Government Employees
VA Medical Center
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Ms Lee:

As you are aware from various discussions in the VA National Partnership Council and other meetings, reduced FY 97 VA funding levels, as well as restructuring initiatives, may quite likely require that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) conduct major Reduction In Force (RIF) actions in FY 97.

While this constitutes official notification under Article 22 of our Master Agreement, as always, we look forward to having the Partnership Council address these matters and propose ways to deal with potential outcomes. This will be critical to assure that any furloughs or reduction in employment levels be accomplished as soon as possible after final funding levels are known.

In this regard, we may have to ask that the full advance notice period requirements of the agreement be waived. This will save more salary dollars and potentially reduce the number of employees affected.

Please submit any comments you may have on this issue to me by June 21, 1996.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald E. Cowles", is written over a circular stamp.

Ronald E. Cowles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Human Resources Management