



THE PHASE OUT OF AMERICA'S JOB BANK Q&AS

- 1. Why did the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) decide to phase out America's Job Bank (AJB)?**
This decision was one that was not entered into lightly. After two years of internal review and assessment, ETA came to the conclusion that the benefits of AJB no longer outweigh the costs of operating and maintaining this system, as the market has evolved to a point where a Federally-sponsored electronic labor exchange is no longer necessary.
- 2. When will AJB be phased out?**
The phase out will occur over the next year and a half, with June 30, 2007, being the final date the Web site and its associated system will be available.
- 3. What impact will the decision to phase out AJB have on workers and businesses?**
With the growth of private job boards on the Internet, as well as state job banks on the Internet, the impact to workers and businesses will be negligible. In fact, AJB technology is outdated and more difficult to navigate than other electronic alternatives.
- 4. How will a job seeker willing to relocate to other parts of the country learn about job openings in other states after AJB is discontinued?**
As part of the transition strategy, once the AJB Web site is taken down, a "splash" page will replace the site for a period of time that will contain information on accessing state job banks. Beyond this, there are also numerous private job boards that are nationwide in scope to assist these individuals.
- 5. How will the discontinuation of AJB be communicated to AJB's current job seeker and business customers?**
As part of the communications strategy around the discontinuation of AJB, each registered business and job seeker will receive a letter sent to the e-mail address contained in their registration, stating what is going to happen, when it is effective and explaining other methods to access the workforce investment system so they can get the help they need. In addition, a notice will be provided on the AJB site. Once the site is taken down, a "splash" page will replace the site for a period of time that will contain information on accessing state job banks.

- 6. What impact will the decision to phase out AJB have on the states?**
The impact should be minimal, as many of the states have developed their own job banks. ETA plans to work with the states to thoroughly assess their individual situations and address any issues as part of this transition. ETA will also provide technical assistance to states to the extent needed and feasible.
- 7. States that are using the America's One-Stop Operating System (AOSOS) have a stronger reliance on AJB, and will be affected more than other states by the decision to phase out AJB. Will ETA do anything to address their unique situation?**
ETA is aware that these states have a stronger reliance on AJB than most other states. ETA will meet with the AOSOS states and provide counsel on potential alternative solutions. ETA will also work collaboratively with the State of New York (the grantee for AJB) and its current technology vendor to implement strategies related to the specific transition of AOSOS states.
- 8. How will the decision to discontinue AJB impact Federal contractors' ability to meet their job listing responsibilities?**
This decision will not have an impact on the ability of a Federal contractor to "immediately list all of its employment openings with the appropriate employment service delivery system." There are many options for contractors to meet this responsibility.
- 9. The AJB infrastructure was used to build the Hurricane Recovery Job Connection Web site, one of ETA's responses to assist individuals impacted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Without the AJB infrastructure, how will ETA respond to similar circumstances that may occur in the future?**
ETA recognizes there may be a periodic need to utilize job board technology due to a unique circumstance, such as a major national dislocation of workers due to a disaster. ETA plans to investigate working with one or more existing private sector job boards to provide "on-demand" capability needed for these particular events.
- 10. What impact will the decision to discontinue AJB have on the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) ability to operate the JobLine (a telephone-based access point to job openings)?**
The NFB's JobLine - originally developed to give another means of access to the information in AJB - currently uses a file of jobs received daily from AJB to provide its telephone-based job search. Alternatives can be developed including a partnership with private job boards.

- 11. Once AJB is discontinued, how will the Secretary of Labor meet her responsibilities for “maintaining a system for clearing labor between the states,” specified in the Wagner-Peyser Act, as codified at 29USC49b(a)? With the advent of the Internet, the need to “clear labor” among the states, i.e., connect job seekers and employers across state lines, is no longer an issue. The Internet has enabled easy and universal access to job openings. State-sponsored job banks, private job banks and private business job listings on the Internet are available equally to everyone, regardless of where people live.**
- 12. What impact will the decision to discontinue AJB have on the rest of the CareerOneStop suite of services?**
The impact on the rest of the CareerOneStop suite of electronic tools will be minimal. ETA will be working with the grantee (State of Minnesota) and its vendors to address any impacts.