

PIECP Program Proposal for the South Dakota Women's Prison

The DOC would like to propose a new private sector prison industry to be operated at the Women's Prison in Pierre. Because the state would use funds from the Prison Industries revolving fund for development of this operation, approval is sought from the Corrections Commission pursuant to SDCL 1-15-1.13.

Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) is a program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This program allows an individual company to set up an operation inside a prison using inmate labor. The company is required to pay the inmate workers the prevailing wage for the locality in which this industry is operating.

The business the DOC would like to bring into the prison is Badlands Quilting, which is owned and operated by Steve and Vickie Vandermay of Martin, South Dakota. Badlands Quilting would provide all of the necessary equipment to operate the quilting business. They would lease space from Pheasantland Industries as well as pay for utilities. Currently, the plan is to start with 7 to 9 workers who will be classified as either Textile, Apparel, and Furnishing Workers or Sewing Machine Operators. The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has determined Pierre's prevailing wage for the training period in this industry is \$8.65 per hour. Once the individual successfully passes the 90-day training period, the prevailing wage then increases to between \$8.90 and \$8.94 per hour, depending on which job the inmate is engaged in.

Badlands Quilting maintains another quilting business in the state. The Vandermayes have indicated they will not be closing their other business with the opening of the prison operation. Additionally, the DOC received a non-displacement ruling from DLR finding that no workers would be displaced in the Pierre area if this industry is allowed to operate in the women's prison.

Adding a private sector prison industry to the women's prison will give the female offenders an opportunity to support their families, pay court-ordered obligations including restitution, victims' compensation, costs of incarceration, social security, and income tax. The inmates will also have the opportunity to build up some savings before leaving the institution. If the Corrections Commission approves the introduction of this industry, the DOC will then submit this business proposal to BJA for approval.

The anticipated startup date is after September 1, 2017.