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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2023

TRENTON – Investigators from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (NJDOL) Division of Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance issued the following stop-work order on July 18, 2023:

Employer: Blue Line Drywall and Builders Inc. of North Brunswick (subcontractor)

Work Location: 355/365 Broad St., Newark, NJ 07104

Nature of Work: Drywall installation at apartment/retail community.

Details: NJDOL's Division Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance prompted the investigation as part of its <u>Strategic Enforcement initiative focused on the drywall industry.</u> Blue Line Drywall and Builders Inc. hired subcontractor NJ West Construction Inc. of Manville, which was also issued a stop-work order.

Violations: Improper classification of construction workers; failure to properly classify employees; minimum wage violations; failure to pay wages; earned sick leave records violations; earned sick leave notification/posting violations.

Number of Workers Affected: 9

Status: Hearing requested; adjournment requested.

NJDOL has issued 141 stop-work orders since these powers were expanded in July 2019.

Stop-work orders are initiated by NJDOL to halt work being performed in a manner that exploits workers, or is otherwise noncompliant with state laws and regulations. An employer may appeal a stop-work order, in which case NJDOL has seven days to schedule a hearing.

NJDOL continues to monitor locations where stop-work orders have been issued, and can assess civil penalties of \$5,000 per day against an employer conducting business in violation of the order. The stop-work order may be lifted if and when any remaining back wages and penalties have been paid and all related issues have been resolved.

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