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## Portneuf Medical Center Announces a Reduction in force

*Affected Employees to Receive Severance, Counseling and Job Assistance*

POCATELLO, SEPT. 9 -- In response to the deepest economic downturn in our country since 1940, Portneuf Medical Center (PMC) announced an involuntary reduction in force of approximately 3% of the hospital's employee population.

This represents less than 40 full time positions of PMC's 1,279 employees. Like many hospitals, PMC has been experiencing flat admissions growth, increases in the numbers of uninsured and underinsured patients, and cost increases in supplies, labor, utilities, contracted and professional fees.

Ben Call, MD, Chairman of the PMC Board of Trustees, said, "This is a sad time for all of us. As the economy worsened, our normal annual employee turnover decreased significantly, leaving us overstaffed. While I know we are not the only hospital to be experiencing these problems, it still is a very difficult decision to make. At the end of the day, however, this action will have no impact on the high quality patient care our employees deliver. The board supports the management team in this decision and applauds their efforts to handle this situation in the most professional and compassionate way possible."

Norman Stephens, PMC CEO, added, "This is a painful decision and we all feel a sense of loss. We deeply regret the impact of this action on the affected employees and their families. To assist them in the transition, employees affected will receive severance packages based on their years of service. In addition, we will provide counseling and outplacement services. The affected employees will also be eligible for rehiring at our facility as appropriate opportunities become available. "

JV Board Chairman Mark Buckalew commented, "The magnitude of the economic downturn has been unprecedented in my lifetime. As good stewards of the community's resources, we must make decisions that ensure the viability of PMC for years to come even though they can be heart wrenching. The construction of the new hospital continues to progress and we can all look to a bright future for PMC."