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Q. In the 2008 Capital Budget the total number of PCs for 2006, 2007F and 2008B remained stable at 598 units, while in this current application the number rises to 625 in 2007 and decreases to 615 for 2008F and for 2009B, while an additional 25 laptops will be installed in vehicles in 2009. Please provide an explanation for the increased number of computers being required.

A. The increase of 27 PCs for 2007 from 598 to 625 in the Personal Computer Infrastructure project related to the following:

- 8 PCs were assigned to new hires;
- 6 PCs purchased to facilitate ongoing Company training;
- 1 PC was installed as a kiosk in Duffy Place to provide employees access to Company policy and procedures including the Operations Manual, Work Methods and Emergency Preparedness and Response.
- 1 PC was installed in the Information Services department to support Company applications being used in field operations.
- 1 PC was installed in the Lockston Plant to accommodate employee access to Company applications and information; and
- 10 PCs due for retirement were kept in service to accommodate temporary training needs.¹

In 2008, the 10 PCs used for temporary Company training needs will be retired, bringing the total number of PCs for 2008 to 615.

The Vehicle Mobile Computing Infrastructure Project for 2009 is proposing that 25 computers be installed in Company vehicles such as line trucks and electrical maintenance vans. The use of mobile computing technology is justified to improve customer service and operational efficiency by making more information readily available in field operations. In addition, ongoing safety and environmental compliance will be improved by having current detailed operating, safety and environmental procedures available on-line in the field.²

¹ The increased training need related principally to the Advantis asset management system.

² Safe work regulatory requirements require *current* safe operating procedures to be on every vehicle engaged in operational electrical work. Over the past 2 years, Occupational Health and Safety inspectors have increased inspections for compliance with this requirement.