



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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NESPELEM, WA – Omak Wood Products CEO Issues WARN Act Notice

Colville Tribal Leaders Work Towards Keeping Workers Employed

NESPELEM, WA –The Vice President of Omak Wood Products (OWP), Kurt Liebich, has announced today that after two years of operations, OWP will be ceasing operations early in 2016. Notice required by the Workers Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) has been delivered to the affected employees, Colville Tribal, and Omak City officials.

OWP entered into a 25 year lease with the Colville Tribal Federal Corporation (CTFC) in 2013 to reopen the shuttered mill operation. According to OWP, its primary customer for its dry veneer products was a sister company to OWP, Olympic Panel Products (OPP) in Shelton, Washington. OPP was recently acquired by an Oregon-based company, Swanson Group Mfg. LLC, which ultimately eliminated OPP's need for OWP veneer. Further, OWP cites declining plywood prices and the recent fires in the region as contributing factors to the planned shut-down.

“We are working very hard, in concert with CTFC, to develop a new business plan that will sustain the mill operations and continue jobs for our communities” said Jim Boyd, Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), which owns CTFC. “This is just about the worst news you can get if your family depends on one of these jobs, and this is just about the worst time of the year to get it” added Boyd. “The Tribes are focused on finding solutions to sustain the operation, including reaching out to potential investors for assistance.”

Liebich, who also serves as CEO of New Wood Resources, OWP's parent company, said “while this was an extremely difficult decision, we are proud of the partnership we forged

with the Colville Tribes to bring this mill out of closure and create a positive economic impact on the region. Many unforeseen conditions have converged to bring about this decision. We recognize the impact on the community and our employees, and we will work with the Colville Tribal leaders to assist in this transition.”

OWP employs over 175 people. “This is going to have a big impact on our community, and many of these folks have been through this with the previous mill operations and closures. Our collective thoughts, prayers, and most diligent efforts are with the employees and their families during this time, and I assure you we will do everything we can to keep things up and running” concluded Boyd.

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