



Sierra Pacific Industries

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Sierra Pacific Industries Announces Mill Reopening at Quincy, California – 35 Jobs to be Restored

Anderson, CA – Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) today announced it will reopen its small-log sawmill located in Quincy, California in early May. According to SPI, recent improvement in the lumber market, should it hold, is a primary driver behind the decision to reopen the plant. In addition, a recent District Court decision has resulted in a moderate increase in the availability of small logs from the national forests in the region.

The company closed the small log mill in May of 2009 due to weak markets and the lack of availability of timber to run the mill. Unfortunately, a reduction in the availability of larger diameter logs will force the company to scale back its large-log mill from two shifts to one shift in May.

“We are pleased that we can restart the small log mill, but are disappointed that we must reduce the capacity of the large log mill by half” said area manager Matt Taborski. “The market for framing lumber has improved, but we are still operating under a cloud of uncertainty brought about by environmental litigation. We would continue to run the large log facility on a two shift basis if more logs were available” he continued. He went on to say “we are hopeful that the Forest Service will move quickly to address the issues raised in the court order and that the road blocks created by environmental lawsuits to implementing forest health and fuel reduction treatments on the National Forests of the Sierra Nevada's will come to an end.”

SPI spokesman Mark Pawlicki noted that Eastern District of California Court Judge Morrison C. England ruled last November against environmental litigants who had blocked much of the U.S. Forest Service’s timber sale program during the past several years. That decision, however, has been appealed by environmental activists possibly causing further delays in timber sales.

The Quincy operation consists of a two-mill complex – one cutting small diameter logs and the other cutting large diameter logs into lumber for domestic consumption. After the restart of the small log mill and the reduction of a shift at the large log plant approximately 243 people will be employed at the combined facilities and biomass electric generation facility.

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Workers at the Quincy mills are represented by the Carpenter's Industrial Council. Union leaders were informed of the company's intent to restart the Quincy facility during recent meetings with company officials.

Sierra Pacific Industries also closed mills in Camino and Sonora California in 2009. The company continues to assess the potential for reopening those plants, but to date no decisions have been made. A spate of lawsuits filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against 15 SPI Timber Harvesting Plans in January has jeopardized the potential to restart these facilities according to SPI spokesman Mark Pawlicki. Together, over 300 mill workers lost their family-wage jobs when those two mills closed. "We would like to rehire every laid off worker in those communities," said Pawlicki. "However, these lawsuits could put a roadblock in our log supply and cause us to refrain from opening the plants even as the market for lumber improves," he added.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. The firm owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the U.S. Sierra Pacific is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products for consumers.

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