



Peace Valley OSB

The Power of the Peace

November 21, 2005

FIRST BOARD IS PRESSED

Fort St. John, BC – Peace Valley OSB employees cheered and shook hands Monday evening as they watched the mill’s historic first board finally roll out from the Press. “It’s a great feeling,” said Peace Valley OSB General Manager Chris Baby. “Now that we have the first press load, every day now we should be pressing more and more product.” A full press of twelve boards was created.

Now that initial production is underway, the mill is expected to gain certification from the American Plywood Association in two to three weeks, enabling the product to be sold in North America. “We should be able to do that relatively quickly especially seeing the press tonight,” said Baby. “We’re projecting our ramp-up now to be even better than we anticipated.” Product testing will follow over the next few weeks and equipment will be further tweaked to ensure the APA standards are met.

Over the next two to three months, production at the mill should increase steadily to about 80 percent capacity, said Peace Valley OSB President Bill Hebert. “We intend to keep making and refining. When things break down you stop and fix them but try to keep production going somewhat continuously.”

The \$250 million project took 18 months to complete from the start at the official Ground Breaking on June 1, 2004. The mill is built on a 230 acre site. 400,000 cubic meters of soil were moved during construction and 26,500 cubic meters of concrete were used to build the massive plant. It took over 1.2 million person hours to complete the mill and at the high point of construction 550 contractors were on site each day. There were no time loss accidents recorded during construction of the mill.

When the new mill reaches full production it will produce about 820 million square feet of panel on a 3/8th inch basis making it one of the largest OSB mills in the world. This is equivalent to 5,460 railcars or 75,000 average North American homes. The plant itself is the largest building by far in Fort St. John.

Measuring around 500,000 sq. ft. Peace Valley OSB is large enough to cover 10 football fields or 28 hockey rinks. Peace Valley OSB employs about 130 people to operate the mill and another 300 people are required to harvest and haul the wood and to deliver forestry and silviculture services.

Peace Valley OSB will use 1.1 million cubic meters of timber each year from the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area to meet its fibre supply needs. During the winter months 130-170 truck loads of wood will be delivered each weekday.

For more information contact:

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