



2019 - 2020 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #51 – February 21, 2020

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

WFP OPERATION START-UPS – HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW

We have requested a meeting with WFP representatives early next week to get as many answers as we can regarding operational start-ups, but for now, here's what we know:

WFP Logging Operations (includes contracted operations)

information based on Business Agents speaking to operational management

Mid Island Forest Operation

No definite start-up date – Shop and Mechanics will be recalled first to ready equipment - fallers to be called this week or early next week (Feb 24) – the rest of the phases will follow the fallers work - some Processors and Hoe Chucking to start next week (Feb 24) - the Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort pocket is currently being dredged, a few members have been called in for this process.

Nootka Forest Operation

3 Mechanics to start next week (Feb 24) - 2 Grapple Yarders will start March 11 - loaders and hauling will start March 16 - 3 grade road sides building 27km March 16.

Nootka Sound Central Sort

2 Mechanics in - 3 crew members in to repair booming grounds. Wood not expected on the Sort till March 11.

Englewood Forest Operation

Grader Operator back next week (Feb 24) – meeting on February 25th between local management and Camp Committee to share 2020 plans.

Port McNeill Forest Operation

2 Grader Operators, Feller Bunchers and Fallers and Mechanics back this week – Super Snorkel, 3 Hoe Chuckers, and a Grapple Yarder crew and Operator back next week (Feb 24) - hauling date is targeted to March 4.

Juene Landing Forest Operation

Building back spar trail this week - Monday Super Snorkel, Hoe Chucker, 1 Grapple Yarder crew, and the Road Maintenance crew including a Grader are working.

Holberg Forest Operation

4 members from Boom crew, 2 Grader Operators, 1 Processor Operator and Helper, 1 Shop Mechanic, 1 Low Bed Operator, 3 Hoe Operators working so far. Grapple Yarder crew in next week.

Quatsino Dryland Sort

1 Mechanic, 2 Boom Men and 2 Operators working this week, slowing ramping up next week.

Burleith Log Sort

Back to full operations.

Olympic Dryland Sort (Powell River)

5 members back next week with the hope to increase the following week

Olympic Stillwater (Powell River)

No plans have been communicated regarding start-up for this operation.

WFP Manufacturing Operations

information based on Business Agents speaking to operational management

Cowichan Bay Sawmill/Planer

Planer back next week (Feb 24) to finish rough inventory, Sawmill to start back on one shift (Cedar) at a yet to be determined date.

Chemainus Sawmill

Back next week (Feb 24) on two shifts working eight hour days.

Saltair Sawmill

Back next week (Feb 24) one 8 hour shift, five days a week. March 2 increase to two shifts 10 hour days, four days a week.

Duke Point Sawmill/Planer

Back next week (Feb 24) on two shifts in both the Sawmill (4 days a week on 10-hour shifts) and Planer (5 days a week on 10-hour shifts).

Alberni Pacific Division Sawmill/Planer

Sawmill back next week (Feb 24) on one shift, Monday to Thursday on ten hours shifts. Planer not running.

WFP TERMINATIONS WILL BE GRIEVED IF NOT RESCINDED

The first thing some members heard when the strike ended was that WFP was terminating their employment.

Many members who were either in their probationary period when the strike began or members who had passed their probationary period but had less than a years' seniority, were notified by WFP that they were terminated.

The Local Union immediately contacted WFP to advise that their actions were a violation of the collective agreement and that these employees be reinstated. We also advised that there is no history of any forest industry company ever taking the position WFP has taken against these employees.

WFP advised that they would review their position and respond to the Union in two days (Friday). As of this posting WFP has not responded.

HEALTH & WELFARE BENEFITS REINSTATED

All members' Health and Welfare benefits are now reinstated as of the end of the strike. Members who are laid off are also covered via the layoff coverage under the terms of the Collective Agreement.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Due to the fact that WFP and many contractors have not recalled all employees, many members are left wondering what to do. The Local Union has been engaging a Member of Parliament and officials at Employment Insurance to find out who is eligible for Employment Insurance and are awaiting responses.

While the Local Union tries to find answers for members, we ask that all members who have not been recalled to work since the strike ended to apply for employment insurance as soon as possible.

STRIKE ASSISTANCE

The Local Union still has operations on strike in TFL 44 in Port Alberni (Island Forest Company, Big Lake Logging and Mount Sicker (Franklin)). These operations will remain on strike until an agreement can be reached. The Union is available all next week to

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meet (Feb 24 to 28) but were advised by Roger MacDougall that the employers are not available. The Local Union then proposed the parties meet on March 3 to continue negotiations but have not received a response as of this update posting.

Strike assistance from our International Union office in Pittsburgh will continue for as long as our International Office allows.

As of today, strike assistance will continue for all members still on strike.

We will also continue to provide assistance to those who were on strike assistance and have yet to be recalled, at least through the next pay period to March 6, beyond that time we will have to determine it on a week by week basis.

Members who have returned to work will receive strike assistance through next week till February 28.



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