



Harmac workers can buy mill, judge rules

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— After four postponements regarding the mill's fate, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Donald Brenner decided Wednesday to allow Nanaimo Forest Products to take possession of the facility for \$13.2 million.

NFP, comprised of the mill's workers, managers and three private investors, was also required to eliminate the potential liability for outstanding vacation pay owing to Harmac employees, estimated to be about \$6 million, as part of the deal.

Columbia Pulp & Paper, the Canadian subsidiary of Asia Pulp & Paper, which joined NFP's bid last week, was not part of Wednesday's winning offer.

NFP will take possession of the mill on Aug. 29.

"We're obviously very happy with Brenner's decision after all the work we've done for the past three months," said Arnie Bercov, a NFP spokesman after the court hearing in Vancouver.

"It's a great day for us and Nanaimo, but we've still got a lot of work ahead of us to get the mill up and running again."

Harmac shut down in May after its owner Pope & Talbot went bankrupt. More than 500 workers were laid off.

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