



AUGUSTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SUITE 560 HISTORIC ENTERPRISE MILL 1450 GREENE STREET AUGUSTA, GA 30901
706-821-1321 WWW.AUGUSTAEDA.ORG

For Additional Information:

Walter C. Sprouse, Jr., CEcD, CCE, FM
706-821-1321 706-284-5610
wsprouse@AugustaEDA.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Augusta's West Fraser Company Expands, Adds New Jobs

The Augusta Economic Development Authority announced today that West Fraser Timber Company Ltd will expand their Augusta facility, with an investment of \$25,000,000 and ten new jobs.

West Fraser, a Canadian-owned facility, produces Southern yellow pine lumber. Most of the finished West Fraser products are sold by Lowe's and Home Depot along the eastern seaboard. The original plant on Mike Padgett Highway in Augusta was built in 1969 and currently employs 150 workers.

The expansion will be for two dry kilns. According to company officials, the new kilns are 30% more energy efficient, produce less waste in forest products, and result in a better use of natural resources. Construction will begin in January and will conclude in May 2015.

Henry Ingram, Chairman of the Augusta Economic Development Authority, said, “West Fraser has a long and steady reputation in Augusta of providing jobs and continuing improvements at their site. Today’s announcement is more proof that Augusta continues to grow and create new jobs. This was our *fifth announcement* of new investment and new jobs during the past 45 days.”

In 2007, Vancouver-based West Fraser purchased the Augusta forest products company. The company nationwide makes lumber, wood chips, laminated veneer lumber, medium-density fiberboard, plywood, pulp and newsprint. The company has facilities in western Canada and the southern United States, and employs about 7,900 people.

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