



August 1, 2024

To: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development  
[WIOATitleI@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:WIOATitleI@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

Re: Birchwood Manufacturing Company/Besse Forest Product, Inc.—WARN and WBCML notice

To Whom it may concern:

This is to advise you that the Birchwood Manufacturing Company facility of Besse Forest Products, Inc. will be closing its facility located at 38 East Messenger Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868. This action will take place on August 2, 2024. As a result, all employee's employment will be terminated on August 2, 2024. The Company anticipates this to be a permanent closing of the entire site.

The total number of employees affected by this closing is 46. Attached is a list of the job titles of employees affected by this action, and the number of affected incumbents in those jobs.

There are no bumping or transfer rights to other jobs or locations. None of the affected employees are represented by a collective bargaining representative.

We are sorry we were not able to give you more notice. However, due to an unprecedeted industry downturn, it has recently become clear to the company that the revenues of the company will no longer support its operations. After exploring restructuring alternatives, we have determined that Birchwood Manufacturing will cease operations. Therefore, we are providing as much notice of the closing as is practicable in the circumstances, pursuant to federal and state WARN laws.

For further information from the company regarding this matter, please contact Kathryn Meyette, HR (906-428-3113; [KMeyette@bessegroupe.com](mailto:KMeyette@bessegroupe.com)).

Very truly yours,

Timothy Turek  
Chief Restructuring Officer

Cc: Harlan Dodge,  
Mayor of Rice Lake  
30 E. Eau Claire St.  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
[hdodge@ricelakegov.org](mailto:hdodge@ricelakegov.org)

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Number of Incumbents</u>
Booker	6
Log Yard Case Operator	1
Piler	9
Debarker Operator	1
Log Yard Lift Operator	1
102 Lathe Operator	1
Reeler Operator	2
Lathe Trainee	1
Lathe Operator	1
Hogman	1
Liaison	1
Defect Clipper	3
Reeler Helper	1
Grader	2
Log Marker	1
Boilerman	4
Maintenance	3
Knife Grinder	1
General Labor	2
Chop Saw Operator	1
Drying Supervisor	1
Plant Manager	1
HR	1