



Press Release

WORKERS OUT OF WORK FOLLOWING THE APRIL 20, 2017 TRAGEDY IN WOSS RECEIVE MORE BAD NEWS

**November 8, 2017
Courtenay, BC**

The Western Forest Products (WFP) Englewood Railway is the last operational logging rail line in North America or so it was.

On April 20, 2017 a tragedy struck the small logging community of Woss, BC where three workers were killed and two suffered extensive injuries. The effects of the loss will continue for the families, friends and community as a whole for many years to come.

Since that time, many different agencies investigated the derailment to determine its cause(s) and to prevent future accidents. Those agencies included the RCMP, Transportation Safety Board (TSB), WorkSafe BC and the BC Safety Authority.

Recommendations were later made by the BC Safety Authority (BCSA) to prevent future accidents. Some of the recommendations were implemented by WFP and some were put on hold. No agency however, including the BCSA, asked WFP not to resume operations once the recommendations were implemented.

Not long after the accident the TSB removed the couplers from the rail cars that released prior to the derailment. They took them to eastern Canada for testing to determine the cause.

The Company had advised the Union they did not want to start the railway until the TSB makes their findings on the couplers known. For the workers this was a big problem as there is no timeline for the TSB to make its report, it could have been a year, it could have been two?

Western Forest Products and the United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHS) also completed a very thorough investigation to determine causes and make recommendations to prevent future accidents of this nature. The Company and the Union completed their joint investigation in September, 2017.

