

Composite adds core component

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

In the past, Warm Springs Composite Products relied on an outside company to produce the core of its fire-rated doors.

The core is a light-weight material that—with the Composite's signature Tectonite—helps to make the door fire-proof.

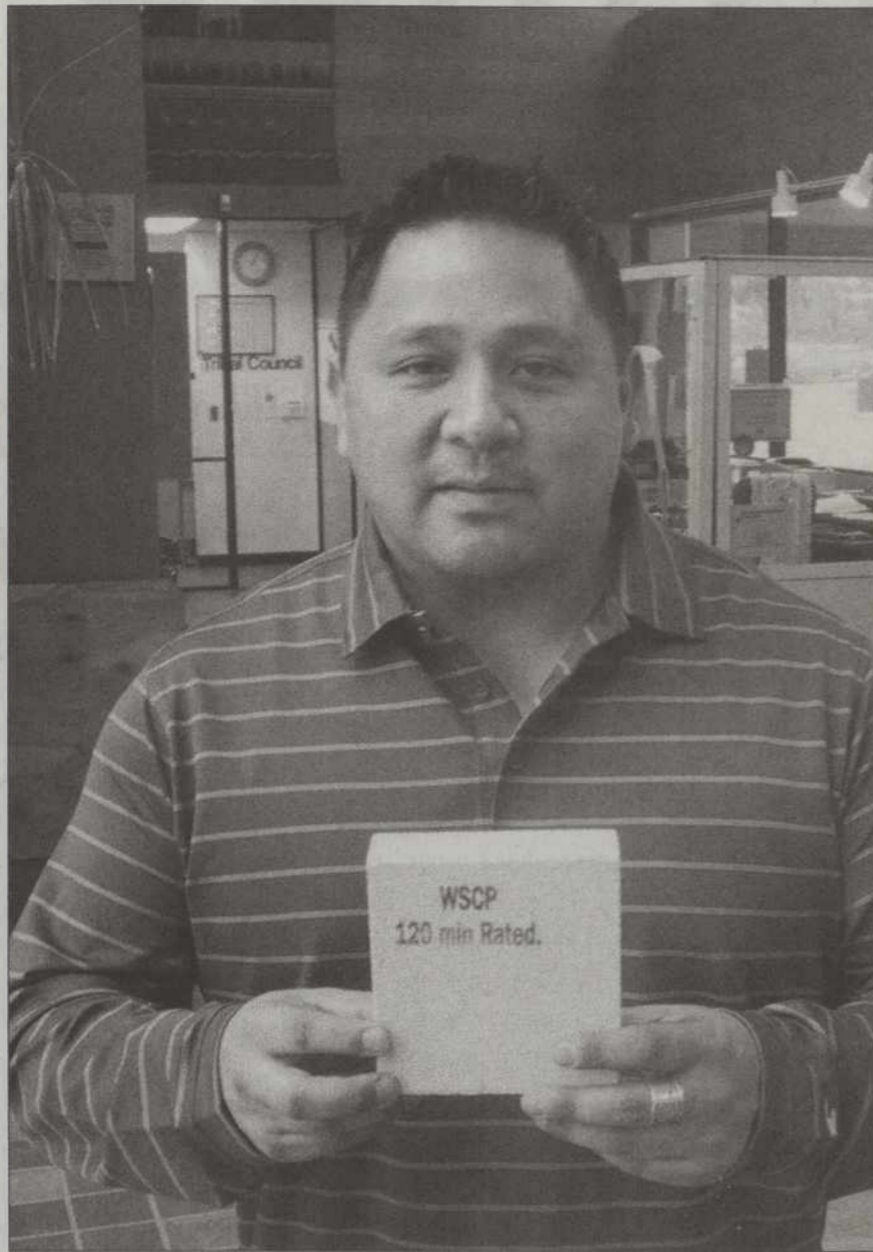
For 20 years or so, Composite Products has been researching and testing material in order to produce the core in-house.

Recently, Composite Products earned certification, by the British Standards, for its own core product. The British Standards apply in many areas of Europe, the Middle East and Asia; so the certification is significant.

"This is a huge step for us," said Duane Darnell, Composite Products chief executive officer. "We no longer have to rely on the outside company. Now it's our own product."

Darnell, speaking with Tribal Council last week, said his hope is that the new core product will help Composite Products in 2011. Last year, he said, was a difficult one. "We did our best to keep everyone working," he said.

Still, he said, there were no



Jake Coochise shows a sample of the new core product.

new hires at Composite, as the domestic and global construction markets, like the economy in general, were down.

Jake Coochise, Composite

Products director of global business, said sales in previous years were making up between 33-35 percent of Composite's business. That figure dropped to

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about 25 percent in 2010.

The South Korean economy, he said, was hit hard by the recession. "We don't know when that market will come all the way back for us," he said.

Darnell said, "It's going to be touch and go for us for the next six months or so."

Meanwhile, the plan for a new building for Composite Products is on hold. The company, a tribally-owned enterprise, would fund the building, and is not in the position right now to commit to it, Darnell said.

Council Chairman Buck Smith asked about the company's ballistics component. Darnell said the ballistics program is still going forward. Composite Products is working with the company Lockheed Martin on possibly developing bullet-proof products, he said.

Composite Products revenue figures for 2010 were not available at the meeting last week, as auditors were still working on them.

Check out the Spilyay Web site:
wsnews.org

To dancers and cooks

Kah-Nee-Ta will be holding two meetings to discuss the 2011 schedule for its summer salmon bakes. The resort is asking tribal members interested in cooking and dancing to attend one of the two meetings.

The meetings are set as follows in the HeHe Room at Kah-Nee-Ta:

Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 10am; and Saturday, Feb. 19 at 9

a.m. There are chances to discuss the 2011 salmon bake season, and to fill out all necessary paperwork. In order to be on the 2011 salmon bake roster, individuals must attend one of these meetings.

Refreshments provided. For more information, please call Heather Cody, convention services coordinator at 541-553-1112, ext. 3436.

Lifeguard Class

At Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino

Class dates: Feb. 4-6 and 12
Class will start at 9 a.m. Feb. 4



Course Description: In this course, you will learn about the duties and the responsibilities of a lifeguard and how to carry them out in a professional manner. You will also learn a number of life guarding techniques, such as how to use surveillance techniques, how to use rescue equipment to help rescue a distressed swimmer, an active drowning victim, and a passive drowning victim, and how to manage a suspected spinal injury victim.

Full class requires a minimum of 32 hours – Must attend all classes to be certified.

Cost of the class is \$150 per person. Cost includes materials, and Red Cross certification in Lifeguarding and CPR for the professional rescuer.

Pre-requisites: Must be 15 years of age or older on or before the final scheduled session of this course. Participant must successfully complete the following:

Swim 300 yards consistently using front crawl 100 yards, breast stroke 100 yards, 100 yards front crawl or breast stroke in that order.

Swim 20 yards retrieve a 10lb brick from a depth of 7-10 feet and swim back to starting point with the object and exit the water without using a ladder or steps within 1 minute, 40 seconds.

Call 541-553-1112 ext. 3458 to register for the class. Ask for David or Natasha.

EPA scraps biomass rule change

By Terri Harber
Spilyay Tymoo

Environmental Protection Agency plans for a rules change regarding bio-mass energy production have been postponed.

This is welcome news because the Warm Springs Tribes plan to build a 35-megawatt biomass plant in 2013. It's to be located on a 100-acre site near the landfill.

Last month, more than 30 Democratic and Republican federal lawmakers protested the EPA's plan to reclassify bio-mass as a non-renewable energy source. This would have put it in the same category as coal, oil and various other fossil fuels.

There was concern that the change would have affected production costs by boosting the price of operating permits, for example. It also might have stalled or stopped the project because time-sensitive grant documents would have required revisions.

So the change of heart is

"good news," said Ellen Grover, an attorney with Karnopp, Petersen LLP. Grover's law firm represents the tribes on this matter and is based in Bend. "Now we can move forward with the existing process."

If the rule ultimately ends up the way it has been proposed and the project stays on its current timeline, the facility already should be operating if the EPA goes ahead with the change after the moratorium ends.

The remaining concern is how the EPA decides to deal with existing facilities—if any rules changes are directed toward existing facilities, she also said.

"Hopefully this three-year reprieve, while very welcome, does not cast a shadow of uncertainty that threatens to curb investment and job creation. I will continue to watch the EPA carefully to ensure that the new economic opportunities that woody biomass offers for rural Oregon has the opportunity to move forward," said Rep. Greg

Walden, in a written statement. Walden is on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Industrial bio-mass can be grown from a variety of plants and trees. The tribes' mill would supply a significant amount of dry wood fuel to the biomass plant under an agreement forged earlier this year.

Opponents of it say it can be non-sustainable and damaging to ecosystems. They also say it can also cause air pollution, consume large amounts of water, and produce net greenhouse emissions—which is why the EPA wanted to group it with fossil fuels.

The Union of Concerned Scientists stresses that biomass is a "critical" as the United States transitions to a clean energy future. It also points out that not all forms of bio-mass are the same and that the impact of their creation and use can vary widely.

A website about the tribes' plan is up and information is being posted to it. Visit: wsbiomass.com

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