



## **City of Louisville, Winston Plywood & Veneer break ground on new mill in Mississippi**

### **Governor Phil Bryant Joins Atlas Holdings and Local Officials to Celebrate Start of Construction, Highlight Partnership to Rebuild**

Louisville, MS (February 2, 2015) — The City of Louisville, in cooperation with the State of Mississippi, Winston Plywood & Veneer and its parent company, Atlas Holdings LLC, broke ground Friday on a new, state-of-the-art plywood mill that will help revitalize a community devastated by a tornado just nine months earlier. The original mill, built in the 1960s and idled since 2009, was destroyed on April 28, 2014 when an F4 tornado struck Louisville. Speakers at the ground-breaking ceremony included Louisville Mayor Will Hill, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority Brent Christensen, several local officials and executives from Atlas Holdings and Winston Plywood & Veneer.

During his remarks to the crowd of several hundred gathered at the site, Mayor Hill presented Atlas Chairman Andrew Bursky and Winston President and General Manager Dr. Dick Baldwin with a key to the City of Louisville.

Baldwin spoke about how the State, local government and Atlas worked closely together to make the project happen. "Winston Plywood & Veneer has forged a unique partnership with the State of Mississippi, Mayor Hill and Winston County to not only rebuild this plywood mill, but to help this region recover," he stated. "Daily collaboration since the first moments after the tornado hit has delivered the resources and focus needed to be here today with construction on a new, state-of-the-art plywood mill officially underway. This world-class facility will enhance the quality of life for hundreds of families in this community for many years to come."

A study released in June of 2014 by Mississippi State University found that the Winston mill's total annual economic impact on the local community and surrounding region will be significant. Winston Plywood will ultimately employ approximately 400 workers, roughly double the previous total. In Winston County

alone, the total impact will be over 600 jobs, inclusive of jobs created to support the facility, \$28 million in annual wages and nearly \$9 million annually in other local purchases. Across the broader 33-county region, the impact jumps to a projected \$66 million in annual wages, over \$105 million annually in other local purchases and over 1,400 total jobs. By early 2016, Winston Plywood & Veneer expects to be producing 400 million square feet of specialty and commodity plywood products annually — 175 million more than the previous facility's capacity.

“For Atlas, our mission in Winston is not merely to produce high quality plywood in a world class facility. We also recognize that we are helping to create a new start for hundreds of families,” said Andrew Bursky. “As Winston County has learned, we do what we say we’re going to do, and we’re excited to help make a lasting impact with this project.”

The rebuild of the Winston mill is a model public-private partnership. Financing for the project has been provided by Atlas Holdings as well as from Federal, State and local resources. The City of Louisville owns the land and building and Winston Plywood & Veneer leases the site, owns the production equipment and will operate the mill.

#### **About Winston Plywood & Veneer**

Winston Plywood & Veneer is an operating company of New Wood Resources LLC, an Atlas Holdings company. Based in Boise, Idaho, New Wood Resources owns and operates plywood and veneer manufacturing facilities in the Pacific Northwest and Southeastern United States. The new facility in Louisville, Mississippi, operating as Winston Plywood & Veneer, will be one of the most modern and efficient mills in North America.

#### **About Atlas Holdings LLC**

Atlas Holdings owns and operates 16 companies throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. With more than 13,000 employees worldwide, its businesses are engaged in a broad spectrum of industries, including aluminum, automotive, capital equipment, construction, energy, food and agriculture, industrial and business services, packaging, paper and tissue manufacturing, pulp and wood products and building materials. Atlas works closely with its Operating Partners and management teams to build strong “Performance Organizations” – businesses that achieve exceptional safety, operational, and financial performance and can sustain long-term success. Visit [www.atlasholdingsllc.com](http://www.atlasholdingsllc.com) to learn more.

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