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Date: Interview recorded in 2006 about events surrounding the Eastern Corporation's Mill in Brewer Maine before it closed in 2004.

Description: Interview with Keith and Wendy Durrah about their thoughts on the closure of the mill.

Interview with Keith and Wendy Durrah about the closure of the Eastern Corporation's Mill in Brewer, 2004.

Wendy Durrah: I mean I think everybody, you'd have been blind not to see that it was coming. I, you know, we dealt, we both dealt on a daily basis of meetings with Mr. Torres and the mill management. And I never felt like one decision was made, I felt every decision that was made was an attempt to do the best they could. But, I mean towards the end, after the first cut back in—what was it, February? And, of whatever year that was, the year before we closed—I mean, cash was obviously an issue on a daily basis. I mean I spent ninety percent of my time locating materials and trying to utilize cashes effectively as we could. I mean I just talked to our controller from the mill yesterday, he's in Berlin, New Hampshire. I mean we became close friends through the process just because it was a constant struggle. But I certainly never felt like there was one thing that said here's the mark. I mean, we knew Mr. Torres was dipping into his own personal retirement fund to fund the mill, somehow you know that's just not a good sign. You know when somebody is bleeding at, I mean and we all heard the facts. "We're losing a million dollars a month." You don't lose that very, it doesn't take long to go completely belly up. So by the time we got the phone call for Keith not to go back, I mean I don't think anybody was surprised. I mean, I still remember the night and I don't think we even had much of a conversation. It was like, "Well, there we go," you know just grateful that one of us had found something somewhere else. We felt we were in a different situation because our whole life was tied up there. I mean literally, our house, our family, our, *everything*. So for us we felt it was

very stressful at the end you know, we needed to make sure we had something else to rely on because obviously unemployment wouldn't support us for long. So, and it was hard, I mean, because we had grown up at the mill, both of us. When we got married, we were there, we met there, we had a baby there. Everybody felt very connected and I mean I didn't want to leave at all. The day I left I said, they had offered a package for me to stay and, I wanted to stay and the controller'sss like

[End Track 5, Begin Track 6- 5:03]

WD: “This is a sinking ship, it's a matter of time. You should, you know you need to secure your family.” And Keith's like, you know, “Wendy come on!” but it was hard.

Keith Durrah: The funny thing is we joked about it, you know, was the matter of the fact that when we went into Chapter Eleven, in the first three years you know I started looking for [inaudible] jobs [inaudible]you know and nothing came about and, Wendy was the one that wasn't looking and she was the one that found a job [inaudible; laughs].