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WILLAMETTE INDUSTRIES INC

Form DFAN14A

March 08, 2001

SCHEDULE 14A

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant ☐]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ☒ [X]

Check the appropriate box:

- ☐ [] Preliminary Proxy Statement
- ☐ [] Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- ☐ [] Definitive Proxy Statement
- ☒ [X] Definitive Additional Materials
- ☐ [] Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

WILLAMETTE INDUSTRIES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- ☒ [X] No fee required.
- ☐ [] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transactions:
 - (5) Total fee paid:

- ☐ [] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- ☐ [] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:
 - (4) Date Filed:

an update to our shareholders

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Company Holdings, Inc. ("CHI"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Company, has commenced a tender offer for all the outstanding shares of common stock of Willamette Industries, Inc. at \$48.00 per share, net to the seller in cash, without interest. The offer currently is scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on Friday, March 30, 2001. CHI may extend the offer. If the offer is extended, CHI will notify the depositary for the offer and issue a press release announcing the extension on or before 9:00 a.m. New York City time on the first business day following the date the offer was scheduled to expire.

to our shareholders: I wanted to update you on our efforts to acquire Willamette Industries, Inc. As I mentioned in my annual report letter, we are renewing Weyerhaeuser to best position the company to continue to provide our shareholders with industry-leading performance. Over the last few years the competitive landscape of the forest products industry has changed dramatically. Global competition and market conditions now require companies like Weyerhaeuser to have critical mass and an international presence in order to continue to be successful.

One of our most recent steps toward our goal of creating the premier global leader in forest products is our proposed acquisition of Willamette for \$48 per share. We initiated our effort to acquire Willamette because the board and management of Weyerhaeuser believe the combination will result in a company with high quality assets and skilled people focused on complementary products. Both companies are proud of their reputation within the industry for the stewardship of timberlands, and our timber positions in the Pacific Northwest and Southeast will yield significant benefits in timber management. Weyerhaeuser already has strong leadership positions in market pulp, timberlands and lumber production. The proposed combination will significantly enhance our leadership in white papers, containerboard and packaging, structural panels and engineered wood products.

Equally important, the proposed combination will result in a more balanced business mix than either company currently has on its own, leading to increased financial strength throughout the business cycle. The transaction is anticipated to be accretive to Weyerhaeuser's cash flow and earnings per share in the first year after close, while maintaining Weyerhaeuser's investment-grade credit rating. We are excited about the benefits that this transaction would bring to our company.

We are pleased to report that as of February 1, 2001, the date of our latest tender offer extension, Willamette shareholders had tendered approximately 51 percent of Willamette's outstanding common shares into our offer. By doing so, Willamette shareholders sent a strong message to Willamette's board in favor of our premium offer, but, to date, the Willamette board has chosen to ignore the view of its shareholders. We have extended the tender offer until March 30.

We prefer to work cooperatively with Willamette to negotiate a

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mutually beneficial transaction. However, Willamette continues to refuse to meet with us and we are proceeding to solicit proxies from Willamette shareholders to elect four independent directors to the Willamette board at Willamette's next annual meeting. The annual meeting is normally held in April, but has not yet been scheduled. We believe the Weyerhaeuser nominees are committed to maximizing shareholder value, and would act in Willamette shareholders' best interests by seeking to influence their fellow board members to let the shareholders decide whether to accept Weyerhaeuser's offer.

While this process continues, we will maintain our focus on Weyerhaeuser's performance. We have the skills and the resources to meet the challenges presented by the 21st century to become the best forest products company in the world.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ STEVEN R. ROGEL

STEVEN R. ROGEL
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FEBRUARY, 2001