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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(S.D.)-Judge Rules Former Plant Workers Due Severance**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 12/21/2012 07:38 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - A judge has ruled that 100 former Merillat particle board plant workers should receive severance pay the company promised but did not distribute when it closed its Rapid City plant in 2009.

U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey Viken awarded the 100 former employees a total of more than \$2 million.

Attorney John Dorsey says the pool of money could grow by \$860,000 if the judge later rules that interest accrued during the past three years should also be awarded.

About 50 former employees already settled claims for payments in mediation sessions.

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