

# Nicholson Manufacturing Plant Site Selection

## Project Outline

Seattle headquartered, Nicholson Manufacturing Company employs 120 people in its Vancouver Island, B.C. manufacturing facility. For years the firm had debated the advantages and disadvantages of operating the facility in such a remote location. An approaching lease expiration presented the firm with an opportunity to explore alternative locations for the facility. Nicholson retained the services of GVA Kidder Mathews, to evaluate the possibility of relocation and its surrounding issues.

## Services Provided

The consulting team identified communities in northwestern Washington State that could meet the firm's requirements. It then worked with the State and County economic development organizations to identify incentive programs that could be leveraged to attract new businesses to the State. Properties in twenty-two communities in Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties were identified, toured, and evaluated, and then reduced to five target properties. Proposals to provide a new manufacturing facility were sought from the property owners and the local economic development agencies.

## Result

The proposals, while providing logistic advantages and attractive economic benefits, were not compelling enough to persuade Nicholson to relocate its facility, however, the long-stranding discussion about moving the facility was resolved.

## Team

The GVA Kidder Mathews team included, Blair Howe, Project Manager and subconsultants Northern Economics, and David Kehle Architects.

