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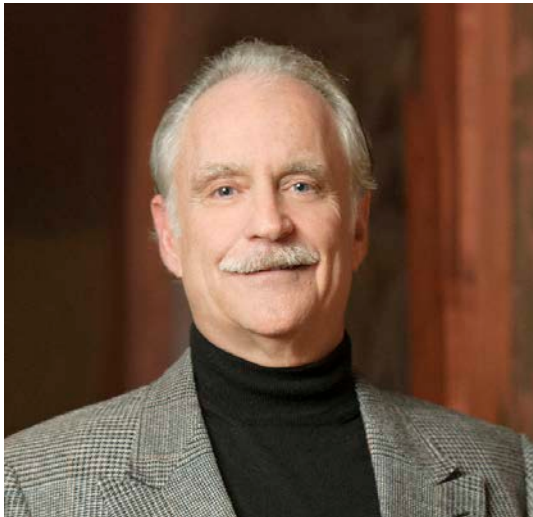
news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verso's Mike Jackson Named PIMA Executive of the Year

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 15, 2011 – Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE:VRS) announced today that Mike Jackson, President and Chief Executive Officer, was named the 2011 Executive of the Year by TAPPI and PIMA. This award is PIMA's highest honor and is bestowed on senior-level executives in the pulp, paper or converting industries for excellence in management and outstanding contributions to the industry as a whole.

"During his career, Mike Jackson has continually exemplified the strong leadership skills and vision required for success in a globally competitive business like the pulp and paper industry," notes Ray Heuchling, PIMA Executive Council Chair. "His accomplishments as a leader and his many contributions to the industry make him an outstanding choice for Executive of the Year."



Jackson joined Verso Paper Corp. as Chief Executive in November 2006. Under his leadership, Verso became a publically traded company in less than two years. Before joining Verso, Jackson spent 29 years with Weyerhaeuser Company, where he most recently served as Senior Vice President of Cellulose Fibers, Bleached Board and Chairman of NORPAC, a joint venture with Nippon Paper, prior to his retirement from the company. During his tenure with Weyerhaeuser, Jackson received two Presidents' Awards for outstanding performance in businesses for which he was responsible.

During his career at Weyerhaeuser Jackson served in a series of senior-level management positions including: Senior Vice President of Cellulose Fibers and White Papers (2004 to 2006), Vice President of White Papers (2002 to 2004), Vice President of Business Papers (2000 to 2002), Vice President of Recycling (1998 to 2000), and Vice

President of Quality and Human Resources, Containerboard Packaging (1993 to 1998). Prior to that, he served as General Manager of various packaging facilities.

In 2009, the Association of Suppliers to the Paper Industry (ASPI) chose Jackson as its Customer Executive of the Year, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the pulp and paper industry. Jackson is currently on the board of directors of SupplyOne, Inc. and the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA). He is Co-Chair of the AF&PA Political Action Committee and served as Past Co-Chair of AF&PA's Printing-Writing Paper Group and its executive committee, as well as Past Chair of AF&PA's Recycling Committee. Jackson is also a past board member of the Electronic Documents Systems Foundation (EDSF).

About TAPPI and PIMA

TAPPI is the leading association for the worldwide pulp, paper, packaging and converting industries and co-publisher of *Paper360*°. Through information exchange, events, trusted content, and networking opportunities, TAPPI helps members elevate their performance by providing solutions that lead to better, faster, and more cost-effective ways of doing business. As the Management Division of TAPPI, PIMA helps management professionals address relevant industry issues and develop their management and leadership skills. To join TAPPI and PIMA, go to www.tappi.org/join. For more information, visit www.tappi.org or www.pimaweb.org.

About Verso

Based in Memphis, Tennessee, Verso Paper Corp. is a leading North American producer of coated papers, including coated groundwood and coated freesheet, and supercalendered and specialty products. Verso's paper products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including magazines, catalogs and commercial printing applications such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports and direct-mail advertising. Additional information about Verso is available on the company's website at www.versopaper.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

In this press release all statements that are not purely historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "project," "plan," "estimate," "intend," and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available business, economic, financial and other information and reflect management's current beliefs, expectations and views with respect to future developments and their potential effects on Verso. Actual results could vary materially depending on risks and uncertainties that may affect Verso and its business. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, please refer to Verso's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Verso assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement made in this press release to reflect subsequent events or circumstances or actual outcomes.

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