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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verso Paper Corp. Poplar Woodlands Achieve SFI® Certification

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 28, 2009 – Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE:VRS) today announced that its poplar woodlands located in west-central Minnesota were independently audited by NSF International Strategic Registrations in early April and are now certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard (NSF-SFIS-C0027231). The scope of the audit included forest management practices on approximately 30,000 acres of land that are owned or leased and managed by Verso, as well as wood fiber procurement from open-market producers in Minnesota who supply Verso's Sartell (Minn.) Mill.

"Having our poplar woodlands certified to the SFI standard is yet another step in fulfilling Verso's commitment to increase the use of certified fiber – which was at 65 percent in 2008 – and to increase the amount of certified fiber available in the marketplace," said Verso Vice President of Sustainability Craig Liska. "Because of our industry's intimate connection with the world's forests, we believe Verso has a responsibility to promote sustainable forestry and forest certification whenever and wherever we can. Achieving SFI certification of our woodlands demonstrates that Verso is leading not in words only, but also by example," he said.

The SFI audit indicated that forestry practices and operations on Verso lands met all SFI requirements and exceeded requirements in two areas. In the area of research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, the auditors concluded that Verso's support for poplar tree improvement is "exceptional." The auditors also concluded that Verso exceeds requirements for contractor education and training through its participation in the Minnesota Logger Education Program and the Minnesota Master Logger Program.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of the independent certification audit," said Poplar Woodlands Manager Mike Young. "We met 103 different objective measures without a single non-conformance. This is a testimony to the quality of Verso's forest land management and procurement programs supporting the Sartell Mill."

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 Web site at www.versopaper.com.