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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verso Paper Corp. To Take Downtime at Bucksport Mill in Maine

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 25, 2008 – Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE: VRS) today announced that it will take approximately two weeks of downtime at its Bucksport Mill in Maine beginning on September 8, 2008. The downtime will result in over 13,000 tons of reduced coated groundwood production. Verso already has taken 19,000 tons of maintenance-related downtime this year. Verso's coated groundwood products are used in leading magazines and catalogs.

"As always, we run our manufacturing operations so that we can achieve a balance between our supply of paper and the demand for paper by our customers," said Verso President and CEO Mike Jackson. "We believe that this downtime will help us keep our supply and demand in balance."

About Verso Paper

Based in Memphis, Tennessee, Verso Paper Corp. is a leading North American producer of coated papers, including coated groundwood and coated freesheet, and supercalendered 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 our Web site at www.versopaper.com.

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