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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verso Paper Corp. to Take Market-Related Downtime for Coated Groundwood

MEMPHIS, Tenn., October 28, 2008 – Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE: VRS) today announced that it intends to take approximately 50,000 tons of downtime related to coated groundwood production, primarily during the fourth quarter of 2008. The specific timing and facilities impacted to achieve this curtailment will be determined as the fourth quarter progresses. This downtime is in addition to the approximately 43,000 tons of coated groundwood downtime that Verso has already taken or announced in the second half of this year. Verso's coated groundwood paper is used in leading catalogs and magazines.

"We remain committed to running our manufacturing operations in a manner to achieve a balance between our supply of paper and the demand for paper by our customers," said Verso President and CEO Mike Jackson. "Based on what we currently see relative to demand and inventory levels, this additional downtime is necessary to help us maintain that balance."

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 our Web site at www.versopaper.com. References to "Verso" or the "Company" mean Verso Paper Corp. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted.

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