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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verso's Continued Listing Plan Accepted by NYSE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (March 16, 2009) – Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE:VRS) announced today that the New York Stock Exchange has accepted the company's plan for continued listing on the NYSE. As a result, Verso's common stock will continue to be listed on the NYSE, subject to quarterly reviews by the NYSE to monitor the company's progress against the plan.

The NYSE earlier notified Verso on December 11, 2008, that the company had fallen below the NYSE's continued listing standard requiring that it maintain an average market capitalization of at least \$75 million over a consecutive 30 trading-day period. With the NYSE's acceptance of the plan, Verso has 18 months from the original notification date in which to comply with the average market capitalization standard, subject to its compliance with the NYSE's other continued listing requirements.

Separately, the NYSE previously notified Verso on February 2, 2009, that the company also had fallen below the NYSE's continued listing standard requiring that the average closing price of Verso's common stock be at least \$1.00 per share over a consecutive 30 trading-day period. On February 26, 2009, the NYSE temporarily suspended the average share price standard, initially through June 30, 2009. Once the NYSE reinstates the average share price standard, Verso's six-month compliance period will recommence, and the company will have the remainder of the period in which to comply with the standard.

Verso will continue to work proactively with the NYSE to maintain the listing of its common stock during the relevant compliance periods. "The NYSE's acceptance of our plan reaffirms our belief that Verso's strategic direction and fundamental operating principles are sound. We look forward to executing our business plan and increasing our share price and market capitalization," commented Mike Jackson, Verso's President and Chief Executive Officer.

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. References to "Verso" or the "company" mean Verso Paper Corp. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted.

Verso simple.

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. Specifically, all statements herein relating to Verso’s future compliance with the NYSE’s continued listing standards, future operating and financial performance, and future share price and market capitalization are forward-looking statements. 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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