



June 29, 2020

Mike Singleton
Human Resources Manager
Verso Corporation
310 3rd Avenue North
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Subject: **Verso Corporation Facility closing, 310 3rd Avenue North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495**

Dear Mr. Singleton:

It has come to the attention of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) **Verso Corporation** (the "Company") plans to close their facility located at **310 3rd Avenue North** in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. We understand this closing will have a significant impact on the Company and on the economic vitality of the community you have served. The WDNR created the Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative (WPRI) aimed at reducing the adverse effects of such closings and speeding up the return of these facilities to productive economic use. Through this initiative, we hope to proactively work with your Company and Wisconsin Rapids officials to assist in managing any environmental issues that exist or may arise as you close these plants.

To that end, the WDNR has staff resources, as well as financial and liability tools to assist your Company. These tools would include assistance with any environmental issues – soil or groundwater contamination, for example – that may have arisen from the use of the property over the years. The WDNR has limited federal brownfields assessment funds and contractor services to assist with soil and groundwater assessments at plant closings. We have enclosed two fact sheets that further explain the resources available and Verso's responsibilities associated with this plant closings.

Responsibilities

Closing a plant or facility does not alter a company's obligations regarding environmental, health and safety protections. This letter and enclosures should provide helpful guidelines regarding your obligations, but they are not legal advice and do not fully explain the Company's responsibilities. To assist you with your efforts, I will be contacting you in the next 10 working days to determine what assistance WDNR can provide and to answer any questions. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss how to properly close your plant with respect to your environmental obligations.

Based on the WDNR's records, it is our understanding that you have the following environmental conditions present at your property that require further actions prior to closing your plant:

- Waterway and Wetland Permits
- Underground storage tanks
- Historic Spills
- Very Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator
- Industrial Stormwater Discharge Permit
- Air Permit - Please contact Mark Chamberlain 920-424-7898 regarding this permit

- **Environmental Contamination Requirements.** Wisconsin's Spill Law requires owners of properties where there is a hazardous substance discharge, and/or persons who cause such discharges, to notify the state immediately and take action regarding that discharge. If you suspect an environmental contamination situation (e.g., groundwater and soil) and need financial assistance in conducting an assessment, we may have resources available to assist you. These tools are important, as the Spill Law's obligations apply to historical discharges and to new owners, so any prospective purchaser will want to understand the environmental conditions at a property before acquisition.
- **Solid Waste and Asbestos Management Requirements.** A company should also consider all requirements regarding licensed solid waste storage and disposal and asbestos management at a closing plant. *Prior to* conducting salvage or demolition, contact the WDNR's air management program to ensure proper management of asbestos issues.
- **Hazardous Waste Management Requirements.** If a company stops generating or managing hazardous waste, proper compliance is required under state and federal law. Equipment used to manage hazardous waste – such as piping, containers, tanks or secondary containment facilities – must be decontaminated. All waste and clean up residue must be shipped off-site to an approved hazardous waste management facility.
- **Other Environmental Responsibilities.** Your facility may be subject to state and federal environmental permits – air and wastewater permits and well abandonment, for example – that contain certain closure requirements, including notification of closure and paying fees to WDNR. Certain reporting obligations may also continue after plant closure.
- **Financial Reporting Disclosures/Sarbanes-Oxley Act.** Recent changes in accounting and disclosure standards may obligate a company to report cleanup costs for contamination related to a plant closure.

Resources and Assistance

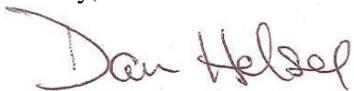
The WDNR is committed to working with you to help address any environmental issues at your property. There are several cleanup and redevelopment tools available at the state and federal level, including Green Team meetings with experienced WDNR and other agency staff; environmental assessment grants; liability protections; cleanup loans and grants, and tax incentives.

Next Steps

While issues surrounding a closing plant or facility are often complicated, we hope your company will work in partnership with the WDNR to address any environmental concerns and help return the property to productive use. We would be willing to schedule a meeting with you to discuss your responsibilities and any available assistance – feel free to contact me at (715) 284-1431, and I would be happy to answer any questions as well as set up a "Green Team" meeting with you to discuss these issues. Finally, please complete and mail/fax the enclosed information sheet to help us better understand the issues regarding your plant closing.

We look forward to working with you on this effort. In the mean-time, feel free to view additional WPRI materials on our web site at the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/wpri.html>.

Sincerely,



Dan Helsel
Field Integration Leader
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc: Tom Coogan, RR/5
Dave Rozeboom, Dee Vang, Deena Kinney, WCR
Heather Gehrt, Wood County Treasurer, Wood County Courthouse, 2nd Floor, 400 Market Street,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Stacey Johnson, Regional Economic Development Director, WEDC, 401 N. Main Street, Adams, WI
53910
Jane Spencer, Executive Director, NCWWDB, 3118 Post Road, Ste A, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Enclosures: Fact Sheets
Plant Closing Follow-Up Sheets