



NEWS RELEASE

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BAYOU STEEL CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAYOU STEEL BEGINS OPERATION OF NEW MILL AT TENNESSEE FACILITY

LaPlace, Louisiana (June 13, 2001) - - - Bayou Steel Corporation (AMEX:BYX) has announced the completion of an \$8 million capital improvement program at its merchant bar rolling mill in Harriman, Tennessee. Successful commissioning was completed on May 18, 2001. Tim Postlewait, Vice President of Operations, stated, "The new equipment represents our continued commitment towards the Tennessee facility. These capital upgrades will improve the Tennessee facility's operating efficiencies resulting in reduced operating costs and more reliability in our rolling schedule. More importantly, the new equipment will enable the facility to meet and exceed customer expectations for both quality and on-time delivery".

The new equipment includes a six stand roughing mill, a reheat furnace charging system and banding machines, which complement the in-line continuous cut to length, straightening and stacking operations. Upgrades to the shipping facilities include a new railroad spur and new conveyors for material handling. The mill equipment was supplied by Pomini (Castellanza, Italy). Engineering, project management and the reheat furnace charging system were supplied by QUAD Engineering (Toronto, Canada). The Tennessee facility is ISO 9002 certified and produces quality steel bars including angles, rounds, flats, and squares. Bayou Steel employs approximately 100 people in Tennessee producing 250,000 tons per year.

Bayou Steel Corporation operates a steel minimill and a stocking warehouse on the Mississippi River in LaPlace, Louisiana which produces merchant bar and light structural steel products. Its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bayou Steel Corporation (Tennessee), produces merchant bar and bar shapes, and consists of a rolling mill and warehousing operation. The Company also operates three stocking locations along the inland waterway system near Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Tulsa where its products are inventoried. Bayou Steel's customers include steel service centers, distributors, original equipment manufacturers and fabricators.



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