

Big River chief confirms management team

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OSCEOLA, Ark. — Big River Steel LLC's top executive has confirmed the company's management roster.

"Everyone here was hand selected. They're the A-team, the people you want to have with you in a foxhole," Big River chief executive officer David Stickler told AMM in an interview during a recent visit to the Osceola, Ark.-based steel mill.

Most of the management team started at Big River Steel within six months of the company's groundbreaking in the summer of 2014, he said.

Ari Levy remains Big River's chief financial officer, Stickler said. Levy had previously worked with Stickler at Global Principal Partners LLC, where the pair served as managing director and senior managing director, respectively, according to the Miami-based investment bank's website.

Mark Bula retains his role as chief commercial officer. He has also previously served as director of the Steel Tube Institute (amm.com, July 10, 2014).

Lenore Trammell remains chief compliance officer. She was a veteran of the former Severstal North America Inc. and one of a group of executives named rising stars by AMM (amm.com, June 11, 2015).

On the operations side, Adam Beasley remains head of the company's melt shop, with George Gurley as caster manager, Tommie Kifer as hot mill manager, and Art Lader as finishing mill manager, Stickler said. Beasley, Gurley and Kifer all have experience with Charlotte, N.C.-based Nucor Corp. as well as with Severstal, he added.

Lader has experience at integrated mills, including the Sparrow's Point, Md., operations of the former RG Steel LLC and the former Bethlehem Steel Corp., and has also worked at ThyssenKrupp AG's former operations in Calvert, Ala., Stickler noted.

Also on the Big River team is Denis Hennessy, director of product development, who also spent time at Severstal and is a veteran of the Canadian steel industry.

Overseeing Big River Steel's construction are Jim Bell, Richard Painter and Clint Carver, Stickler said. All three have worked on several new mill projects, including the Columbus, Miss., mill now owned by Steel Dynamics Inc. (amm.com, Sept. 16, 2014).

The mill currently employs 120 people, a number that is expected to reach 425 once construction of the facility is complete, he added.

There are also about 2,000 workers on-site building the mill, Stickler said. In 24 months, the project has had only one lost-time incident, he noted.

Big River expects to strike an arc by year-end and ramp up to a capacity of 1.6 million tons per year in its first phase, a number that could double in future phases of construction (amm.com, June 15).

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