

## Big River making strides on construction of Arkansas mini-mill

CHICAGO — Construction of Big River Steel LLC's flat-rolled mini-mill in Osceola, Ark., is proceeding quickly.

The start-up steelmaker has begun installing sheet

piles for the caster area of the mill's hot-end complex, chief commercial officer Mark Bula told *AMM*, and concrete has been poured for the finishing complex,

which will include a pickle line tandem cold mill, batch anneal operations, a temper mill and hot-dipped galvanized facilities.

"Whether it has been to speeches we have been invited to make or in one-on-one prospective customer meetings, the reaction has been very favorable," Bula said. "The first question seems to always be 'Why in the world?' But after we walk through our equipment package, product plans and how we want to do business differently, there is a definite excitement that is encouraging to us."

Nearly all of the soil that needs to be moved for the project has been moved, Bula said, and of the 235,000 cubic yards of concrete expected to be poured, some 13,500 cubic yards



Photo: Big River Steel LLC

Mark Bula

focused on advanced high-strength steels.

"Both demonstrate our belief that our industry must continue to innovate, embrace new technology and think big," Bula said. The mill's unique design and R&D efforts also will showcase the company's commitment to flat-rolled steel consumers.

Big River Steel broke ground on the mill Sept. 22 and is scheduled to produce the first coil in the second quarter of 2016. The mini-mill is expected to make high-strength, lightweight steel for the automotive industry; wide and thick steels for the pipe and tube industry; and electrical steels for the energy industries (*amm.com*, Sept. 22).

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have been poured to date.

The Osceola complex will include more hollow structural sections—made from flat-rolled steel—than traditional mills, which primarily rely on wide-flange beams as structural elements, said Bula, who previously served as director of the Steel Tube Institute (*amm.com*, July 10).

Big River Steel plans to announce in the first quarter a partner for a research-and-development initiative

### CHANGING PRICES

#### ATI hiking alloy plate products

NEW YORK — Allegheny Technologies Inc.'s (ATI's) Flat Rolled Products segment is increasing base selling prices across its nickel-based and specialty stainless alloy plate product offerings effective Jan. 5.

ATI will increase base prices by 4 to 6 percent for alloy plate products, including its ATI 201, ATI 400, ATI 600, ATI 625, ATI 718, and ATI 17-4 grades, among others, the Pittsburgh-based steelmaker said in a letter to customers.

The increase "is necessary to support continued growth and investment in our business," according to ATI vice president and general manager of specialty plate Jeffrey H. Thompson.

The move is the company's first pricing announcement since late August (*amm.com*, Aug. 27).