FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big River Steel Becomes First Steel Production Process to Achieve LEED Certification
Production Process and Campus Recognized for Commitment to Sustainability

March 1, 2017 (Osceola, Arkansas) – As part of its grand opening ceremony, Big River Steel announced that it has been recognized as the first steel production facility to be LEED certified based on its environmental sustainability efforts and energy efficiency performance. Achieving LEED certification for its steelmaking process puts Big River Steel in the unique position of being the first producer of steel in the world to be LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, which developed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is internationally recognized and the most widely used green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), that evaluates buildings and process loads that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated with a focus on environmental and human health attributes. Big River Steel’s commitment to sustainable principles allowed it to benefit from a campus approach to LEED certification which documented site-wide sustainable performance.

Big River Steel’s Flex Mill™, a steel mill that combines the wide product mix and superior grade capabilities of a more traditional integrated steel mill with the nimbleness and technological advancements of the newer more technologically-advanced mini mills, broke ground in July 2014 and began production in 2016. Working with the environmental and energy consultants at Emerald Built Environments throughout the build process kept sustainability at the forefront of priorities.

“Respecting the environment and safeguarding the welfare of our team members while building a profitable enterprise is at the core of what it means to be a Flex Mill™. As more steel consumers look to source from steel producers that not only recycle but also do so with a focus on sustainability, Big River Steel will be well positioned,” said Dave Stickler, chief executive officer of Big River Steel.

Working with Big River Steel’s lead technology supplier, SMS group headquartered in Germany, Emerald Built Environments and Big River Steel processing engineers analyzed and modeled the
Flex Mill’s™ operations compared to other steel production facilities to determine the energy efficiency of Big River Steel’s production process. The use of variable speed motors throughout the compact strip production (CSP) process along with the installation of a comprehensive set of energy saving tools throughout the operation were the major factors that led to Big River Steel being the first steel making facility to earn a LEED certification.

"Big River Steel has shown tremendous leadership with their innovative work and technological advances in sustainable practices through the use of LEED,” said Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council. “Industrial facilities have become a cornerstone for the green building movement thanks to the growing adoption of LEED and sustainable practices in this sector."

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About Big River Steel:
Big River Steel is located on 1,300 acres in Osceola, Arkansas. The site is bordered on the east by the Mississippi River and on the west by a main line railroad operated by BNSF. The $1.3 billion Flex Mill™ combines the best of integrated mills and mini mills.

About Emerald Built Environments:
Emerald Built Environments is an international consulting company with expertise in business, sustainability, engineering and building science. The company works with building owners and developers, and their design, construction and operations teams using integrated decision-making to align recognized industry standards and certifications with the owner’s performance metrics and financial goals.