



Kruger  
Wayagamack inc.

**PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release**

## ***NEW MANAGEMENT TAKES THE REINS AT THE KRUGER WAYAGAMACK MILL***

**Trois-Rivières, Wednesday, May 9, 2001** – Today, May 9, the new owners of the Wayagamack mill in Trois-Rivières made their entry into the mill. In fact, the final purchase contract between Abitibi-Consolidated and Kruger Wayagamack was signed last night, with possession of the mill by the new management set for midnight. The Kruger flag has been hoisted on the flagpole and the rolls of paper products now bear the new Kruger Wayagamack Inc. logo.

Representatives from Kruger and SGF Rexfor, the two partners in the mill acquisition, met with employees this morning. After introductions, Kruger and SGF Rexfor informed the employees of the main steps in the transition process and the goals of the new owners. Various activities are forecast to facilitate the integration of the new division into the Kruger organization.

“Our first mandate consists of maximizing the operation of the mill as it stands now,” said Mr. Bernard Routhier, Executive Vice President of Operations at Kruger. “The transition period will allow us to get to know the mill better and evaluate each of the sectors. This in turn will help us define our quality and productivity objectives,” he added. During the course of the next few weeks, Kruger will carry out various analyses aimed at defining the modernization program. Over 300 million dollars will be spent to transform the mill into an industrial complex with state-of-the-art technology, producing lightweight coated paper destined for the North American market.

During this morning’s meeting, employees also met Louis Sabourin, Vice-President of Manufacturing at Kruger and the mill’s new General Manager, as well as Martin Gélinas, who will become the new Manager of Human Resources. “We are pleased to welcome the 475 employees to the Kruger

organization and to work with them on what will be a major modernization project,” stated Louis Sabourin. While Kruger now has two facilities in Trois-Rivières, the Île de la Potherie mill and the one located on Royal Boulevard will be managed separately.

The transition period and modernization work will take place under the theme *Building the Future*. Many challenges await the 475 employees of Kruger Wayagamack, who will benefit from Kruger’s expertise in the manufacture of lightweight coated paper. And while Kruger is a partner in a kraft pulp mill, the acquisition of the Wayagamack mill will make it a producer of kraft pulp, drawing on the experience of the new addition’s employees.

Kruger Inc. is a leader in sustainable forest ecosystems and is at the forefront of recycling. The company manufactures newsprint, lightweight coated paper, specialty grades, industrial and domestic tissue, recycled board and boxes, lumber, wood panels and other forest products. The organization employs over 10,500 people and has operations in Québec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland, the United States and the U.K.

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