



**PRESS RELEASE – For immediate distribution**

**KRUGER SCIERIE MANIC SHUTS DOWN SAWING OPERATIONS  
FOR A PERIOD OF THREE WEEKS**

**Ragueneau (Québec), May 12, 2003** — The Kruger Company today announced a temporary interruption of sawing operations at Scierie Manic located in Ragueneau on the North Shore. This measure affects 45 employees. An early spring thaw combined with heavy rainfalls in the last few weeks has made log transportation in the forest impracticable.

“Given the very low inventory of roundwood and the high inventory of sawn lumber, and the actual economic context, we have no other choice but to curtail sawing operations at Scierie Manic for a maximum period of three weeks,” said Mr. Jean-François Mérette, General Manager, Sawmill Operations at Kruger. He stated, however, that Scierie Manic would continue the dressing and drying operations.

The interruption of production at Scierie Manic will be effective from May 19 to June 8.

Kruger, Scierie Manic employs 110 people and produces 125 million ft. board measure of lumber annually for the construction industry.

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