



**St. Marys Cement Inc. (U.S.)**  
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PRESS RELEASE

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### **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DIXON CEMENT PRODUCTION**

**Dixon, Illinois, September 8, 2008** – St Marys Cement Inc. (U.S) intends to temporarily suspend cement production at its Dixon plant, beginning this December, due to deteriorating economic conditions, the Company announced today.

The facility will continue to operate as a terminal receiving product from other plants and shipping cement, and it will be business as usual for customers.

The vast majority of the plant's 90 employees will be laid off during suspension of cement production. Assistance and support for the affected employees, members of Local D-81 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers, are being discussed with employee representatives.

"This difficult decision reflects the harsh economic realities being faced by the industry. The downturn in the housing market plus a general slowdown in the U.S. economy have resulted in a sharp decline in the demand for cement," said Erik Madsen, President and CEO of Votorantim Cement North America (VCNA), which owns and operates St Marys Cement. "We have idle capacity in all our plants across the Great Lakes and this may last two or three years."

The Company remains optimistic that economic conditions will eventually improve, and the needs at cement producing plants, including Dixon, will be regularly reassessed.

"We made this decision after considering all reasonable alternatives," Madsen said, "and in no way does it reflect on the performance or dedication of our excellent staff."

VCNA is a subsidiary of Votorantim Cimentos (VC). VCNA has operations in the United States and Canada employing approximately 4000 people in both countries. VCNA and VC are owned by the Votorantim Group, a conglomerate based in Brazil.

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