



Gerdau planning to idle Calvert plant

Mayor of Calvert City says a local plant is planning on idling. Mayor Lynn Jones says employees at the Gerdau Ameristeel plant were notified.

Kim Selph, Communications and Public Affairs Director from Gerdau North America, confirmed that the company had meetings with employees to inform them they are discussing an idling of the plant. Selph says they are targeting an idling by the end of November.

Selph also sent a statement from the company which reads "Gerdau has informed the Union and employees at the Calvert City mill that it is considering an idling of the facility.

The industry continues to suffer significant losses due to a global overcapacity of steel, which has led to depressed prices and intense competition between producers. The Calvert City mill has been a particular challenge for cost-competitiveness, because it



does not have a melt shop. It has made it very challenging to compete with companies expanding into the facility's product range."

The company made several attempts over the past few years to make the facility successful. Unfortunately, these efforts have not led to increased cost-competitiveness.

Mayor Jones says idling the plant could mean the loss of more than 100 jobs.

Gerdau Ameristeel has operated the steel mill since the company acquired it in 2004. In 2010, the company made a \$25 million investment into the plant to install a new re-heat furnace.

ABS Appoints Danieli Olivotto Ferrè for Bar Heat Treatment at Cargnacco



In February 2015, Acciaierie Bertoli Safau (ABS) appointed Danieli Olivotto Ferrè, with the contract for the engineering, manufacturing, and installation of a new facility for bar heat treatment at the Cargnacco steel works.

The facility was requested to anneal, temper, normalize and stress relieve 6000 tonnes per month of a wide range of bar profiles, from smaller bar bundles (25 mm) up to single 600 mm diameter bars.

Lengths are variable ranging from 3 to 14 m while all steel grades are covered, from low carbon steels to high alloy steels.

The line consists of six bases and two direct firing lift-off type furnaces that

function by means of burners fed with natural gas; two lift-off cooling hoods incorporating a cooling system; a crane for lift-off handling; a waste gas exhaust system including six damper valves

and ducts to one common natural draught chimney; an electrical power distribution system and a Level 1 control system supplied by Danieli Automation.

Important technological improvements

were made using a client-led approach; low fuel consumption with low pollution emissions. Improved chamber temperature uniformity in order to achieve Furnace Certification AMS 2750 was also implemented into plant design.

The project leaves room for future expansion since the modular batch design includes high efficiency and state-of-the-art combustion technology.

User-friendly loading procedures and bar positioning, easy access for inspection and maintenance also give rise to a safer plant.

Annealing and normalizing cycles demonstrated a 20-30% decrease in gas consumption compared with previous generation furnaces at the very start of the commissioning phase.

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