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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 5, 2004

**BESICORP-EMPIRE NEWSPRINT, LLC  
APPOINTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**KINGSTON, NEW YORK** – Continuing to advance development of the Besicorp-Empire Newsprint Project, Besicorp-Empire Development Company, LLC (BEDCO) announced today that they have appointed an Advisory Board for Besicorp-Empire Newsprint, LLC (BENCO) which will own and operate the 335,000 tpy Recycled Newsprint facility being developed in the City of Rensselaer, New York.

Four retired paper industry senior executives have joined the Board bringing over a combined 120 years of paper industry expertise to the Project.

Mr. Benjamin Thorp III (formerly with Georgia-Pacific Corp.) will serve as Chairman of the Board. Coincidentally, Mr. Thorp previously lived in the City of Rensselaer, where the plant will be built. Other Board members include: Mr. John Nevin (formerly with James River Corporation), Mr. William Boehmler (formerly Treasurer of International Paper Company), and Mr. Thomas Blackburn (formerly of Chesapeake Corporation).

These individuals bring a proven track record in financing, engineering, marketing and operations of pulp and paper facilities. Also serving on the Board are William T. Seils, President of Besicorp-Empire Development Company, LLC, the lead developer of the project, and Michael Zinn, the lead investor in the Project who has led Besicorp since its founding in 1976.

The first action of the Board is the development of a detailed Operating Plan and recruitment of President for BENCO.

Michael Zinn states, "The support of our project by these experienced Board members represents validation of our strategy first begun 5 years ago. The Besicorp-Empire Newsprint Project will be a state-of-the-art, low cost producer serving a niche in the Northeast marketplace. We've kept this project moving through difficult times and are pleased with the progress we have been making. The input and expertise of these fine individuals brings extraordinary depth to our company as we complete the transition from development stage to construction and then into operation."

The Project received the State permits to construct and operate the facility in September, 2004 and is targeting a first quarter 2005 construction start date with operations beginning in 2007.

For additional information, please contact BEDCO at (518) 465-6751 or visit the company's web site at [www.besicorp.com](http://www.besicorp.com).