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## Kershaw receives RDA funds

Grant will advance industrial park development

A \$45,000 RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT (RDA) grant made to the town of Kershaw will help with the development of the Kershaw Industrial Park on Hwy. 601, north of Kershaw.



Several years ago, the town of Kershaw purchased 117 acres with the goal of creating an industrial park. Until recently the park was covered by pine trees. Progress has been made with the clearing of several acres to make room for the construction of a building. A road going into the park has been paved, shrubbery planted, a sign ordered, and water and sewer are now available.

The town did encounter one hurdle before the site could be certified by the Department of Commerce. A hill prevented traffic traveling on Hwy. 601 from seeing vehicles entering and exiting the industrial park. The Department of Transportation wanted to change the entrance location and add a turn lane, an expense the town could not afford.

With the help of the RDA grant monies from Lynches River and financial assistance from Comporium and Lancaster County, a turn lane was constructed.

"The town of Kershaw appreciates Lynches River, Comporium and Lancaster County for their contributions," says Tony Starnes, town administrator. "We're a small town with limited resources. We couldn't have added the turn lane without the support of local industry," Starnes says.

Starnes says he is hoping Haile Goldmine, located just down the road, will choose to construct a building in

the new industrial park. And, with only a small portion of the 117 acres cleared, there is still plenty of room to expand the park to accommodate future growth.

In 1996, the South Carolina legislature wisely passed a bill allowing South Carolina electric cooperatives to use money they would pay in certain state taxes for economic development projects in their service areas.

Because of the Rural Development Act of 1996, Lynches River Electric Cooperative has given more than \$1.6 million to local towns and counties. By working with economic development boards in Chesterfield, Kershaw and Lancaster counties, we can identify the economic development needs in each of these areas and make RDA grants accordingly.

RDA funds are used for infrastructure improvements and for the development of industrial parks to entice new businesses.

So why are we involved in economic development? The answer is simple. Lynches River Electric Cooperative's mission is to not only provide reliable and affordable electricity, but to improve the quality of life of our members and their communities.

Economic development benefits members by helping to create jobs, stimulate the local economy and revitalize small towns. Furthermore, by serving large industrial customers that use electricity around the clock, we can keep electric rates lower for all members.

**David Altman**  
*President and CEO*

## Quarry doubles down for success

### Buckhorn Materials grows its local facility

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**THE RECENT UPTICK IN ROAD WORK**, bridge construction and other “shovel-ready” projects in the Southeast has paved the road to success out at Buckhorn Materials’ Lynches River Quarry Plant.

The Jefferson facility, which is served by Lynches River Electric Cooperative, has done well enough since opening in July 2007 to warrant doubling its existing operations in recent months. “We employ about 35 people right now, but as we complete this big upgrade to double our capacity, we’re going to need more folks,” says Rich Moses, general manager. “So far, it’s been a big success, and we’re excited about the opportunity to continue to grow in the future.”

#### Big job

The quarry mines granite, which is used heavily in the asphalt and concrete industries. “If you’re riding on asphalt, you’re riding on 95 percent rock and sand,” Moses notes. The pit, permitted to be mined down to 280 feet, is now about 90 feet deep.

“We upgraded because of the demand for our product,” he says. “As the economy improves, we anticipate that demand will increase.” This in turn will mean more jobs for local



WALTER ALLREAD



COURTESY BUCKHORN MATERIALS

**Buckhorn General Manager Rich Moses says rocks are hauled from the quarry pit, right, dumped in the primary crusher then conveyed to a secondary crushing and screening tower behind him to be sized.**

residents during the site’s busy season that runs from spring to winter.

#### Big benefits

Buckhorn, an affiliate of the Boggs Group, based in Monroe, serves the aggregate requirements for Boggs’ paving and

construction divisions along with numerous other customers.

Co-op President and CEO David Altman says, “We appreciate Buckhorn Materials and, like all the industries we serve, do our best to provide them the most reliable service possible.” He adds, “Large operations

like the Buckhorn quarry use significant amounts of power. Their support helps the co-op hold down the cost of service to all members, including residential consumers. The fact that Buckhorn brings more jobs for local people is an added benefit. We applaud their success.”

### Coming Soon

#### Things get really juicy July 16-17

The Pageland Watermelon Festival will pack in plenty of family-friendly entertainment July 16 and 17.

The festival runs 3–11 p.m. that Friday and 9 a.m.–11 p.m. Saturday. Both days, the line-up includes regional and local bands, craft and food vendors, carnival rides, strolling entertainers, children’s activities and the festival rodeo. There’s even more fun on Saturday with a car and motorcycle show, a parade and festival contests.

Watermelon Festival merchandise can be purchased from the Pageland Chamber of



LEIGH SMITH

Commerce prior to the festival or at the chamber booth during the festival. For a complete list of Pageland Watermelon Festival events and other information, visit

**Co-op employees like Doris Taylor, left, and Bronwenn (BW) Timmons pitch in at the festival.**

pagelandwatermelonfestival.com or call the Pageland Chamber of Commerce at (843) 672-6400.