PULP and PAPER: Scott Beal, environmental and security manager for Woodland Pulp in Baileyville, and the chair of MFPC's Pulp and Paper Committee, speaking at MFPC’s Legislative Breakfast, 1/30/2020.

Good morning.

I’m Scott Beal. I’m Woodland Pulp’s Environmental & Security Manager.

Once again I want to thank the members of our legislature for being with us this morning and for your continued service to your districts and our state. I’m pleased to have a few minutes to share a bit of information with you about our environmental footprint: carbon emissions to be specific.

In my view it’s worth restating the vast majority of the Maine Forest Products Council Pulp and Paper mill’s energy consumption is derived from carbon neutral and renewable energy forms such as biomass, black liquor and hydro power.

In my mill’s configuration, two thirds of the energy requirements to sustain our companies-Woodland Pulp and St. Croix Tissue, Inc. is generated by the combustion of black liquor alone. This fuel is derived from the cooking of the wood in our continuous digester, the pulp of which is washed, screened, bleached and then sent to the machines to produce market pulp and tissue products.
The organics from the cooking process and residual pulping liquor chemicals are burned in the recovery furnace for the production of steam for our processes and thermal turbines for electricity generation and the pulping chemicals are recovered (hence the name Recovery Furnace) to complete the pulping liquor cycle. Simply stated, there is no substitute for this vital fuel source to power our kraft mills. A pulping process that is used in Rumford, Jay, Skowhegan and at our mill in Baileyville.

Now, if for some reason it was to become a good idea to reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of black liquor, please understand that would equate to producing less pulp. This is the hard, cold reality. This is not, nor is it intended to be, a scare tactic.

The Kraft pulping process is a process that is unique to our industry. It is a process that was, arguably, at the vanguard of the business of recycling.

It is a process that is in every sense of the term, “carbon neutral.”

And last, but certainly not least, it is a process that is in every sense of the word: “renewable.”

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to try to answer any questions.