PHASING IN TECHNOLOGY

Two southern mills go graderless

BIBLER GOES GREEN
Converting to clean, green lumber drying

INTRODUCING BIOVISION
New product brings vision to the green end
Lean and green.

These are two of today’s hot ‘buzz’ words. The reality is, if you want to stay in business in this rapidly changing world, these are two words you’d be wise to keep in mind. In the current context both words are all about reducing waste, getting more out of available resources and doing so in ways that are ecologically responsible.

Like you, these words are important to USNR. That is why this issue is devoted to ways we can help you to be more lean and green.

These days, mills need the flexibility to be able to adjust their products quickly to take advantage of niche markets. Grade optimization in both the dry and green mills facilitates just this kind of flexibility. It also allows mills to significantly improve their recovery performance. You’ll read about two mills that made the investment in planer mill optimization early on, and are weathering the economic storm positioned for recovery. We also introduce a newly developed product that utilizes a similar concept, allowing you to edge and trim for grade and value in the sawmill.

Lumber drying technology has come a long way. USNR’s Green Burner utilizes green sawdust, recently considered waste, as a cost-effective fuel for dry kilns. With its unique afterburner it provides total combustion. It offers the economy of direct-fired dry kilns and the clean performance of steam-heated kilns, all in one package. As one recent convert will attest, the cost savings, efficiency and improved lumber quality speak for themselves.

And finally, we bring you solutions that will help improve the efficiency and performance of your existing resources, helping you be more lean and green!

Sincerely,
Colleen Schonheiter
Editor
Jordan Lumber Company invested in planer mill optimization early on when the technology was only fully developed for geometric optimization. Since then they have phased in full automated grading into both their southern pine mills.

Jordan Lumber was established in 1939 in Mt. Gilead, NC, and today remains a family-owned and operated company. In 2004, the company acquired the former Weyerhaeuser mill at Barnesville, GA. The company also owns two chip mills, Cotton Creek Chip Company at Star, NC and Anson Wood Products at Wadesboro, NC, as well as a secondary wood processing operation at Biscoe, NC where they produce finger jointed studs, decking and other engineered wood products.

Jordan’s company-owned forest land now includes 70,000+ acres. Jordan Lumber takes its role as steward of its timberland very seriously, and believes strongly in reforestation as a way to sustain and grow its valuable raw resource. For many years Jordan has replanted more trees than it harvests; more than 1 million trees are planted each year.

The mills in Mt. Gilead, NC and Barnesville, GA process Southern Yellow Pine for primarily domestic markets. The mills currently employ over 300 people, and produce 250 to 350 mmbf annually.

**Improving performance**

VP and General Manager Robert Jordan related the company’s business philosophy: “Innovative People, Customer Driven”. This philosophy has been borne out with Jordan’s ongoing investment in high-yield innovations, and its continuous drive to provide top quality products that fulfill a wide range of consumer applications. The move to grading automation in its planer mills was one such innovation that promised to improve grading efficiency and offered a short-term payback. The Mt. Gilead mill was the first to adapt to the new technology in 2003, with the Barnesville mill following in 2005.

According to Robert, the project team followed a course of thorough analysis of all the available technology on the market before deciding to go with Newnes and the Linear High Grader (LHG). They were comfortable with the Newnes solution, in part because of the success of previous capital equipment projects. The mill in NC invested in a Newnes planer mill system in 1999, and the GA mill has a variety of Newnes equipment including sawmill trimmer and edger optimizers, McGehee curve sawing gang system, as well as planer mill equipment. The Jordan team looked at several other mills operating the LHG technology, and combined with their prior experience with Newnes equipment, they were convinced the LHG was the best solution on the market to meet their needs.

**Phasing it in**

The Jordan team took a phased-in approach to adapt their process and personnel to automated grading. Both mills first installed the base LHG model (geometric or profile scanning), and adapted their processes, trained their personnel and achieved a quick payback on the investment. Many mills have found this phased approach to be an easy way to integrate new technology into their processes. While they are learning to adapt their processes and train their staff, the machine pays off by extracting the highest value solution and minimizing the above grade that manual grading historically left in packs.

Recently, the LHG systems at both mills were upgraded to bring them to full automated grading status with the addition of 4-sided vision. The system at Mt. Gilead incorporated x-ray technology, which is used in conjunction with vision scanning to accurately identify, size and classify knots. X-ray in combination with vision allows the system to precisely locate the pith down the entire length of the piece. This enables the system to effectively “see inside” each piece where the knots converge. This is the only way to be certain that knot faces showing visually on both sides of a board, are either a single through knot, or two separate knots that meet at the pith. The knot displacement in each case can vary significantly, and can often mean the difference between an on-grade or off-grade
decision. More accurate information enables the user to control below grade without the lost value of having above grade in their packs, and to make much more precise and accurate trim and cut-in-two decisions for increased value.

The Barnesville LHG system received x-ray technology when the system was first installed. That mill produces and markets a percentage of MSR lumber. When the LHG system is outfitted with x-ray in combination with other technologies, it is capable of fully integrating MSR evaluation technology within the same scanner frame. This is an optional module that can be added at any time.

Better-than-projected return
According to Robert, the mills realized 60% of the full potential return with just the first phase (profile scanning) when they installed the base models. While it didn’t allow the mills to reduce labor, it did significantly improve the consistency of their packs and the amount of value recovery they achieved.

When they upgraded to vision scanning they were able to reduce their labor, and achieved even more uplift in value with higher grades in their mix. At production speeds the Mt. Gilead and Barnesville mills had each employed 5 graders per shift; today they have reduced that to one grader per shift. The remaining grading talent has been redeployed to operate and tune the LHG, and fulfill the role of quality control. In addition to labor savings, Robert Jordan reports that the LHGs have greatly increased their mills’ efficiency, increased the percentage of high grades and decreased low grades, exceeding their expectations. The Jordan team is extremely pleased with LHGs. The systems are paying for themselves much faster than projected, and are increasing the average selling price of their products.

Taking the reins
Personnel at the Mt. Gilead mill initially utilized the Newnes training trailer for an in-depth course to introduce them to the system, show them how to tune the system for various products, and make the most of the new technology. The Barnesville personnel were trained on site with Newnes technicians, and benefited with oversight from some of the trained Mt. Gilead staff.

Mr. Jordan expressed, “I couldn’t be happier with the Newnes team. The start-up crew came well prepared and worked very well with the mill personnel. Start-up was quicker and smoother than we had estimated, and we achieved performance levels faster than expected.”

Key Jordan personnel involved with the projects were Tom Van Horn (Project Manager) and Parnell Richardson (Quality Control Assistant Manager) in NC, and Andy Matthews (Quality Control), Stacey Curry (LHG Operator) and Banyon Meredith (Electrical Manager) in GA.

Devon Sarauer, Newnes-McGehee’s Project Manager on-site for the start-ups, had many good comments about working with the Jordan teams, and he explained the roles that an automated system requires of mill resources. “Both sites were well prepared for the upgrades, due largely to Tom’s attention to detail. Thanks to joint focus between Tom and our controls engineer, the transition went very smoothly.”

“Parnell is responsible for the machine’s grading performance, and has the final say when it comes to grade accuracy. His dedication to the system’s operational performance will ensure ongoing success.”

“In Barnesville, Andy Matthews checks finished packs of lumber to ensure they are on-grade. He was, perhaps, the most surprised at the LHG’s performance. Stacey Curry makes sure the LHG always runs in tip-top shape, taking responsibility for cleaning the sensors regularly, making product setup changes, adjusting price tables, and checking packs of finished lumber. Banyon Meredith has ownership for the electrical and electronic components of the system. His experience and troubleshooting skills are invaluable.”

Devon went on to comment about the grading agency representatives that were on site. “SPIB (Southern Pine Inspection Bureau) representatives were also involved early on in the upgrades, which really helped expedite the tuning process. Perhaps the biggest advantage to having them involved was that it gave us the opportunity to explain and demonstrate how the system worked, which went a long way in giving them confidence in the LHG.”

Bob Tweedy, USNR’s Account Manager, says, “The key to success on any project is preparation by both parties, and having well defined goals and time lines. Add to that a customer like Jordan Lumber that takes ownership of their new equipment even before it’s installed, and you’re almost assured of success.”

In spite of the current state of the economy, the Jordans’ long experience in the industry assures them that a turnaround is inevitable. They are already planning their next investment in new technology, and will be ready to “hit the ground running” when the industry shifts into gear for the upswing.
LHG

On Target.

Whether your target is to reduce labor costs, control below grade or reduce above grade in your packages, the Newnes-McGehee LHG offers the performance to help you hit your mark. On Grade. On Target.

Contact us at info@usnr.com
www.usnr.com

Lineal High Grader

Hit your target with LHG:

► Reduced trim loss
► Above grade reduction
► Below grade control
► Positive grade distribution shift
► No lug speed limits
► No elevation changes
► ALSC recognized
► 3000 fpm autograding
► Integrated MSR/MEL
► Cut ‘N 2, 3 or 4
► 40+ sold
► Global installations
► Graderless
USNR's Sloped Grate Green Sawdust Burner eliminates many costly burner problems while increasing the value of your lumber. The USNR unit burns sawdust like other direct-fired kilns, but it also employs an afterburner module to ensure complete combustion, which keeps your lumber remarkably clean and free from ash. This is just the kind of unit that Terry Freeman, president of Bibler Brothers Lumber Company, was looking for when he set out to improve the efficiency of the mill's existing two gas-fired dry kilns.

Bibler Lumber is located in Russellville, AR. It is co-owned by Terry Freeman and James and Laurie Bibler. The mill produces high quality southern pine boards, timbers and 5/4 premium decking. The mill dries 100% of its lumber in its two kilns.

Like most good businessmen Terry hates to waste anything, and that was his motivation when he set out to update his lumber drying process. Terry and Kevin Freeman, VP and General Manager, consulted with Doug Tinsley of Tinsley Consulting Group to help them find the best solution that would save fuel costs, as well as improve the consistency and quality of the dried lumber. They looked at what other processors were doing with their kilns, and decided on an upgrade to extend the length of the kilns and, in conjunction, to convert the kilns to utilize wood waste as an efficient, low-cost heat source.

**Kiln and burner upgrades**

Terry and Kevin utilized the kiln extension design that was developed jointly between USNR and Pollard Lumber, and took on the job of extending the kilns themselves. The extensions created continuous drying kilns that recycle moisture and heat through the kilns to reduce fuel consumption and improve lumber drying efficiency. This design can be done as a retrofit to an existing kiln, as was done at Bibler, or as a new kiln installation. USNR calls this its TLC kiln (triple length continuous). It has proven to be so efficient that several other mills have opted to upgrade their kilns using this model. These mills include Rex Lumber of Graceville, FL and T.R. Miller Mill Company of Brewton, AL.

This unique concept in drying technology delivers continuous non-stop production, enabling the mill to increase kiln throughput significantly, while using its existing heating system. The lumber stacks run in opposite directions allowing heat coming off the dry lumber to preheat the green lumber packs, and moisture coming off the green lumber to condition the dry lumber. This energy efficient process occurs at both ends of the kilns. The moisture conditioning that occurs also produces lumber with less stress and a tighter moisture distribution than with a traditional batch process.

The kiln upgrades that Terry and Kevin undertook included installing the USNR Sloped Grate Green Burners. They selected the USNR Green Burner for its performance record, and based on good reviews from other users. They had also worked with USNR in the past on other kiln and burner projects and were well satisfied with the results.

The first burner was installed over a few weeks, and started up in December of 2009. The burner housing is constructed of 9” fire brick and IFB (insulating fire brick) that will withstand temperatures of up to 2600° F, then covered with 3” fireproof insulation board, and finally covered with steel sheeting. The afterburner duct sections, along with the choke and tee sections are also 9” fire brick, which is covered with a painted steel shell.

**New Dry Kiln technology can save thousands of dollars each month in fuel costs.**

**Upgrading is a smart way to improve your bottom line, while making good use of what was once considered waste.**
How the Green Burner works

Although direct-fired kilns are generally cost-effective because they use wood residue as fuel, the lumber is often discolored and devalued because of the ash and soot they produce. The presence of soot and ash also creates danger of explosion or fire. And while steam-heated kilns are known to produce cleaner wood, they have significantly higher operating costs in addition to the substantial cost of replacement parts.

The cyclonic afterburner, located just after the main burner chamber, is a feature that sets USNR’s Green Burner apart from ordinary burner systems. Proprietary Turbo Technology™ enables temperatures in the afterburner to get much higher than temperatures in the main burner where sawdust is initially fed. Heated air from the burner at 2000° F is blended with 200° F return air from the kiln in the USNR insulated blend box, and put back into the kiln at 500° F. An added safety feature unique to the Green Burner, the blend box incorporates an isolation flapper, and in upset conditions hot air is released out of the stack instead of cycling to the kiln. In effect, the kiln can be isolated from the burner. No other direct-fired kiln on the market is capable of attaining such a wide range of temperatures. This afterburner provides complete combustion, keeping high value lumber in the kiln remarkably clean and free from ash. In fact, the resulting dry lumber has proven to be as clean as that produced by any steam kiln.

‘Turning the key’

USNR’s Don Borden was in charge of start-up for the projects. He has worked for USNR for 25 years, and started up every Green Burner built. Even though now officially a senior, he’s a real character, and still going strong. In Don’s many years of experience working with kilns and burner technology, he says the Green Burner typically saves a mill thousands of dollars each month in fuel costs alone.

Don says he worked closely with Bibler’s Bill Meyers, who is in charge of all the controls systems for the mill. Bill is very knowledgeable and programmed the controls for the Green Burners. Mills that do not have personnel as knowledgeable and talented as Bill, often opt for USNR’s Kiln Boss control system. Kiln Boss systems allow you to easily control all important wood drying variables. The system tracks your custom drying schedules, alerts you to trouble or system changes, and reports batch and historical statistics for your review. With the Green Burner and Kiln Boss controls, the entire system requires only one operator, as opposed to the two or three operators normally required to operate direct-fired kilns.

Alan Robbins, USNR Account Manager for this project, commented on his relationship with Terry and the team at Bibler. “We were very familiar with Terry, Kevin and the Bibler team from their days of operating our kilns and Green Burners at the (previous) Idabel, OK location. We looked forward to working together again at the Russellville plant. We were very happy that Terry and Kevin selected the USNR Green Burner to replace the gas burners on both their kilns. We’re also pleased when one of our products helps a customer create a better product, saves money doing so, or both. It was a wonderful experience working with the Bibler group and we look forward to the next project.”

Terry was very pleased with the job that Don Borden and team did with the installation and start-up of the burners. He says, “With the continuous kiln we are seeing better throughput, better grade recovery, and a better overall average moisture content (lower standard deviation).” With reported fuel savings in the range of $200,000 per month, Terry Freeman’s efforts to improve the efficiency and throughput of his lumber drying process have made his operation both leaner and greener.
Edger 101: Performance Improvement Program

Program Overview
USNR’s Performance Improvement Program is designed to offer you a comprehensive analysis of your capital systems by our trained professionals. Who better to evaluate than the people who service and install these systems daily? Let our experts review your systems, identify problems, and get your equipment back to just-installed accuracy and recovery.

Edger 101
This service module is designed to benchmark and identify the overall performance of your edger system. Once analysis is completed, action items are developed, discussed and implemented to improve the edger system’s performance. After modifications are made the benchmark tests are conducted again to measure the final improvements to the system. A detailed scorecard of before-and-after performance is provided along with additional recommendations for how the system could be further improved.

This test module typically requires two days of site time and will require the assistance of your mill staff to support the testing and modifications to the system. Let us help you get your system back to its full potential. Call us today to schedule your Edger 101 system check, at 800.BUY.USNR.

Harp Test
The Harp Test measures the edger system’s overall ability to properly scan, optimize, position and cut a flitch. A well-running system should produce 98%+ of the manually harped results.

Positioning Accuracy Test
This test measures the system’s ability to position and cut flitches properly.

Scanner Accuracy Test
To test the scanner’s accuracy, the calibration bar is cycled through the system and measured as if it were a piece of wood, and the resulting solutions and scanner data are analyzed to determine the system’s accuracy.

Optimizer Setup Evaluation
An evaluation of your current optimizer setup is performed by the technician. All product wane rules, product price tables, priority tables and grading options are evaluated with your mill staff to ensure that the optimum parameters are configured. The overall system is reviewed for stability and simulation capability.

Piece Rate Timing Analysis
The technician will measure the piece rate performance for each segment in your edger system to determine possible bottlenecks.

Edger/Trimmer Mismatch Evaluation
It is not unusual to find the trimmer and edger out of sync in a sawmill. The technician will evaluate your trimmer setup with respect to the edger, and recommend changes or modifications.
CONTROLLING THE FLOW

CONTROLS UPGRADE FOR GANGS AND EDGERS

Through years of experience performing these upgrades we have seen vast, sustained improvement in system performance. Most improvements are attributed to a reduction in PLC scan time, and elimination of data transfer time from the PLC5 to the IMC. Typically this can be directly applied as a reduction in gap between pieces, allowing improved production and smoother flow.

The Problem
Many of the control systems installed with the Newnes-McGehee curve sawing gang systems dating back to the 1990’s, used the Allen-Bradley PLC5 programmable controller for machine control, and IMC S-Class motion controller for the gang chipping head and sawbox axes. This combination is no longer a viable solution due to lack of availability of replacement IMC controllers.

As with many technologies, the IMC motion controller has become obsolete, and replacement units are becoming increasingly more difficult to source. Many installations have experienced IMC failures and had to rely on their spare IMC to continue operation.

Using a spare IMC is simply a bandaid, delaying the inevitable replacement with newer technology.

Although replacement PLC5 processors are still available, as they approach their end-of-life we will see a continual decrease in availability, and inevitably an increase in cost of replacement parts.

The Solution
USNR is offering an upgrade of your control systems to the Allen-Bradley ControLogix platform. This platform offers many advantages over predecessors.

► More modular design allows multiple processors and communications to be placed within one chassis, along with any other available modules.
► Integrated motion control, with 32 motion instructions available providing gearing, camming (position and time based), coordinated moves, direct drive commands, and more.
► Easy mixing of motion feedback devices, by using the different available motion modules to connect to Quadrature, PWM, SSI devices, and Servos.
► Alarm instructions allow programming of real time alarm events, and time-stamp the event for display on the FactoryTalk View SE HMI.
► More flexibility with networks using Ethernet IP, DeviceNet, ControlNet, DH+/RIO modules.
► Combined with the RSLogix programming software, programmable trending allows advanced system tuning and troubleshooting.

This upgrade is applicable to both transverse and linear curve sawing gang and board edger systems.

Bonus Features
The HMI (human machine interface) that is supplied with this system offers the following features that your legacy HMI does not.

FactoryTalk device-based alarming
Device-based alarms are programmed directly into Logix5000 controllers, where alarms are processed and the time is stamped for reference. This eliminates HMI alarm polling, reduces network overhead and speeds up alarm detection. It is evident which alarm, in a cascade of alarms, was the first to occur thus making it much easier to troubleshoot the cause and get production back online.

Machine center summary
The summary screen provides an overall status summary of the machine center. It shows current unacknowledged alarms, InfoMaster messages, and summarizes the status of the various sections of the machine center.

Downtime summary report in MS Excel
The downtime feature lets you track the time and reasons that your system is not operational during a shift. You can select the conditions and shifts you want to track and view the results on an HMI screen or as an MS Excel report.

You can further analyze the downtime report to identify the most common causes of downtime in your system and make corrections to improve production.

Gap length and time histograms
Decreasing the gap between pieces can improve the machine center’s productivity, and the gap length and time histograms screens can help accomplish this task.

Call us at 800-BUY-USNR for an assessment of your existing system.
One of this year’s goals for SFPA Expo organizers is to be as green as possible, with paperless services like registration and lead retrieval, promotional materials available online, and biodegradable badge holders with recycling bins available. Official show hotels are within easy walking distance of the convention center, and shuttle buses used for the event are powered by low emission engines.

Over 90 companies have contracted to exhibit at the 30th Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, June 11-13. After several successive shows were held in Atlanta, GA show organizers opted to bring the show back to New Orleans, LA.

USNR is well aware of the impact of the global recession on our customers. With our display, we bring you some solutions that can help your operation be lean, and green. With new product lines in our portfolio, and the results of our latest R&D efforts, we are excited to be able to showcase these and other winning solutions. Our booth is located along the center aisle, #1527.

**Technology demo: Linear High Grader (LHG)**

When you visit the USNR booth, you will be able to see demonstrations of the LHG grade scanning technology, designed for planer mill applications. The system is proven to be accurate, reliable and consistent so you can be sure your lumber packs meet grading agency requirements.

In these tough economic times, mills need the flexibility to be able to adjust their products and grades quickly to take advantage of niche markets. Automating the grading process facilitates just this kind of flexibility. Those mills that have made the investment already are better positioned for these difficult times, but it’s never too late to take advantage of technology that will help make your operation lean.

Given today’s production speeds and the difficulty to “guessestimate” where exactly to trim the end of a board in the split second of time allotted in which to make the decision, and given the high cost of labor and the challenge to train and maintain this highly specialized skill, mills are recognizing the need to automate this process. But the payoff can be a lot more than increasing the recovery (quantity) of the resource, reducing the amount of high grade products in lower grade packs, and reducing the labor component.

Automated grading can allow a mill to shift its overall grade distribution upward with more valuable products. It can allow a mill to quickly adjust its product mix to access new markets. It can even affect how the mill handles its raw resource in the green end.

The LHG’s modular approach makes a lot of sense in that mills can choose how much – or how little – automation meets their specific requirements. They can also upgrade to additional technologies at any time within the same scan frame. As an example, if you have an existing LHG system installed, you can choose to easily add the capability to produce MSR-rated lumber, if you decide to pursue that market. Alternatively, should you find another niche market that you would like to access, the LHG system can easily allow you to tune your system for products to target that market. With LHG, you truly are in control!

**Technology demo: BioVision for Sawmills**

USNR is launching its latest innovation at this year’s SFPA Expo - BioVision - and we will demonstrate this system at the show.

BioVision is USNR’s solution to identify visual defects in green lumber. The system is designed for transverse edger and trimmer applications. It is available as an easy upgrade to an existing system, or as a new optimizer installation. Now you can edge and trim for grade and value. Combining color vision technology with high density geometric scanning, BioVision offers sawmills the highest value optimized decisions with grade and recovery performance. Applying BioVision technology in the sawmill increases your finished grade outturn and recovery, thereby increasing your total value.

Edger grade extraction provides value through re-manufacture or rip based on the ultimate grade of the wood. For example a #3 appearance due to knots can be edged to #3 wane with confidence, which maximizes recovery. Likewise, a low grade 2x8 may be worth more as two 2x4’s, one of them being high grade.

Trimmer grade extraction lets you cut-in-two allowing a short, high grade piece without trimloss. ‘Candidate’ trim stock meeting specified characteristics for wane and knots can be targeted and sorted/routed differently for further unique action downstream. For example, by sorting for grade at the trimmer, you can select more appropriate drying cycles for high or low grade products.

The system utilizes USNR’s new vision sensor, the BioLuma 2900. The BioLuma sensors contain high resolution digital color cameras and LED lighting to provide accurate images and increased reliability.

The software incorporates algorithms from the proven Linear High Grader (LHG) automated grading system developed by Newnes-McGehee, and used for recognition and classification of visual grade...
defects. The BioVision system combines this visual information with the geometric scan data generated by the transverse scanning system to determine a final solution.

While you’re at the show, stop by our booth and discuss your specific needs with our representatives. We have many, many more solutions that can help you improve your bottom line.

USNR’s BioVision demonstration scanner frame is being outfitted for the show. The unit will demonstrate the capability of USNR’s new BioLuma 2900 vision sensor. The BioLuma sensors contain high resolution digital color cameras and LED lighting to provide accurate images along with increased reliability.

NEW PROJECTS

A mill in Dodson, LA is upgrading its Edger infeed. The project entails replacing its existing rotary feeder with a new Newnes-McGehee accelerator rollcase. This upgrade will accommodate higher piece counts and less maintenance.

Anthony Forest Products of Urbana, AR recently received an upgrade to its Newnes-McGehee Linear Curve Saw line. The scope of the project was to convert the existing VME decision processor with an Intel DP, replace existing obsolete Hydra sensors with Newnes-McGehee LPL sensors, and upgrade to Ver. 6.3 optimization. Besides offering supportability, the LPL sensors deliver much higher data point density (.035") and a tighter cross section scan down the length of the piece.

Biewer Lumber has recently started up USNR’s Quad Cam Board Feeder at its sawmill in McBain, MI. The Quad Cam is being used to deal 1-6” thick products of primarily red pine and some jack pine. This board feeder is known for its speed, as well as flexibility with dealing a variety of product sizes.

Collums Lumber of Allendale, SC ordered upgrades to its Newnes-McGehee Double Length Infeed, Linear Curve Saw Gang and Linear Edger lines. The scope of the projects includes converting the VME decision processor to the Intel product, and replacing the existing obsolete Hydra sensors with the Newnes-McGehee LPL sensors.

Columbia Vista of Camas, WA ordered a Newnes-McGehee Newtronic lug loader, Grade Mark Reader and associated lumber handling equipment for its sawmill to facilitate grading and sorting of its green products.

Griffin Lumber of Cordele, GA recently ordered USNR’s Lasar MillExpert Log Optimizer to replace the obsolete AST scanning system. The MillExpert system will increase yield with accurate cant and fitch faces, and improve throughput with better carriage feed control. Griffin also has a Newnes-McGehee Linear High Grader (LHG) system and curve sawing gang.

Hampton Affiliates of Randle, WA is upgrading its Newnes-McGehee Linear Curve Saw Gang and Linear Edger line to replace existing obsolete Hydra sensors with the Newnes-McGehee LPL sensors. The project also includes an upgrade to Version 6.3 optimization which provides new decision logic and allows higher recovery.

Jordan Lumber of Mt. Gilead, NC recently upgraded its Newnes-McGehee WinTally™ system (sorter management and reporting package). The WinTally upgrade allows integration with the mill’s LHG system for monitoring by mill QC personnel.

Biewer Lumber has recently started up USNR’s Quad Cam Board Feeder at its sawmill in McBain, MI. The Quad Cam is being used to deal 1-6” thick products of primarily red pine and some jack pine. This board feeder is known for its speed, as well as flexibility with dealing a variety of product sizes.

Collums Lumber of Allendale, SC ordered upgrades to its Newnes-McGehee Double Length Infeed, Linear Curve Saw Gang and Linear Edger lines. The scope of the projects includes converting the VME decision processor to the Intel product, and replacing the existing obsolete Hydra sensors with the Newnes-McGehee LPL sensors.

Columbia Vista of Camas, WA ordered a Newnes-McGehee Newtronic lug loader, Grade Mark Reader and associated lumber handling equipment for its sawmill to facilitate grading and sorting of its green products.

Griffin Lumber of Cordele, GA recently ordered USNR’s Lasar MillExpert Log Optimizer to replace the obsolete AST scanning system. The MillExpert system will increase yield with accurate cant and fitch faces, and improve throughput with better carriage feed control. Griffin also has a Newnes-McGehee Linear High Grader (LHG) system and curve sawing gang.

Hampton Affiliates of Randle, WA is upgrading its Newnes-McGehee Linear Curve Saw Gang and Linear Edger line to replace existing obsolete Hydra sensors with the Newnes-McGehee LPL sensors. The project also includes an upgrade to Version 6.3 optimization which provides new decision logic and allows higher recovery.

Jordan Lumber of Mt. Gilead, NC recently upgraded its Newnes-McGehee WinTally™ system (sorter management and reporting package). The WinTally upgrade allows integration with the mill’s LHG system for monitoring by mill QC personnel.

West Fraser’s Fraser Lake Sawmill Division, Fraser Lake, BC has installed the first Newnes-McGehee ID Printer as a replacement for the Domino printer on its LHG system. The Newnes-McGehee ID Printer is expected to resolve many of the issues that the industry has experienced with the Domino printer. The new printer offers low maintenance, economic and non-hazardous ink, monitoring alerts, and a human readable character set.
Bob Tweedy is Regional Sales Manager for USNR in the US Southeast states.

Bob began his career in the wood products industry in 1982 with Kockums CanCar. He joined Coe Manufacturing in 1986 and relocated to Atlanta with Coe in 1993. In 1998 he joined the Newnes team. Of interest is the fact that, today all these companies are under the USNR umbrella.

Bob is pleased with this outcome. “USNR’s commitment to customer focus brings us back to what was a major strength of both the Newnes and McGehee companies. It’s important to us and our customers, and they appreciate it.”

He went on to say, “Adding Newnes-McGehee’s strengths in lumber handling, gang and edger machine centers, and high-end optimization and controls to an already strong USNR equipment list, allows us to offer solutions to our customers no one else in the industry can provide.”

In his spare time Bob is an avid cyclist, riding in excess of 5,000 miles annually. “There’s nothing better than watching a bunch of 35 year olds go into the red zone trying to keep up with the ‘old man’ on our Saturday group rides.”