

# River Living



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## STEELSCAPE RECEIVES FIRST STEEL SHIPMENT

The 200,000 square foot facility that Steelscape is building on a 75-acre site at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier has entered its second phase of construction ahead of schedule.



On Monday, July 19, 2006, the first shipment of steel from Thailand was loaded on barges at the Port of New Orleans and sent up river to the Port of Shreveport-Bossier's general cargo dock for off loading.

"The economic impact this facility will produce for the local and state economy can not be ignored," said Red River Waterway Commissioner Wayne Davis, "and it's no secret that the hard work of countless individuals who've worked on the Red River played a big part in Steelscape deciding to locate here."

Headquartered in Kalama, Washington, Steelscape produces cold-rolled metallic coated and custom-painted steel coils for the construction and OEM markets. They are the only coated-steel producer in the western United States that process the raw material from pickling to painting in its own facility, with manufacturing facilities currently located in California, Alabama, Washington.

Steelscape is the eleventh tenant to locate at the Port.

## ALEXANDRIA PORT EXPANDING FOR P&G

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◀ Citric acid being unloaded at Port of Alexandria

gantry crane is also being upgraded so that the Port of Alexandria can handle a more diverse commodity line in the future.

These improvements to the Port of Alexandria are being jointly funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Red River Waterway Commission (RRWC). DOTD is covering \$1,818, 684.00 of the improvements with the RRWC taking care of the remaining \$447,084.00.

The Port of Alexandria is expanding the size of its transit shed storage capability. The improvements will enable the Port to better serve one of its tenants, Proctor & Gamble. Proctor & Gamble currently uses the transit shed to store citric acid from China for its Pineville detergent plant. The transit shed's storage space is being increased to 30,000 sq. ft. Additionally, the Port of Alexandria is constructing a 15,000 square foot hard storage area. The current

"These improvements serve two purposes," said Red River Waterway Commissioner At-Large Alvin Owens, "it better handles the citric acid shipments from China for Proctor & Gamble and it makes our Port a more shipment-friendly place to do business. I'm thrilled to get to witness it."

The improvements to the Port of Alexandria should be finished around Summer 2007.

## SYNFUEL PROPOSES COAL GASIFICATION PLANT

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In June, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco announced that Synfuel, Inc. is proposing to build a \$5 billion major coal gasification plant in Ascension Parish that will use lignite from Bienville, DeSoto, Natchitoches and Red River parishes. Synfuel will use the lignite from north Louisiana as a primary raw material to produce gasoline, ethanol, synthetic gas, electricity, steam and methanol. The proposed project is expected to create up to 1,200 permanent jobs, of which 300 will go to the four-parish mining area of North Louisiana.

"Projects like the Synfuel coal gasification plant show just how important and vital the Red River is to the state of Louisiana," said Red River Waterway Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Construction of the project will begin when regulatory permits are obtained from the state of Louisiana. It is expected to take four years to complete the project. When operational, the plant will process 20 million tons annually of lignite.

Lignite is a young coal used almost exclusively for electric power generation. It is brownish black in color and has a high moisture content, sometimes as high as 45 percent, and a high ash content. It tends to disintegrate when exposed to the weather. It is also referred to as brown coal.



## MUSIC ON THE RED RIVER

On Saturday, June 3, 2006, The Alexandria Music Project, a non-profit corporation that brings live music to Alexandria, hosted the Austin-based band, the Gourds, at the Red River Amphitheatre in downtown Alexandria.



Photo by John Scott



Former U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston presents certificates of appreciation to Lindy Broderick (above), E.R. "Chip" Campbell (above right), and Mark Roberts (right) at the Red River Valley Association's annual meeting in Bossier City, LA.



# ONGOING PROJECTS *with funding assistance from Red River Waterway Commission*

## **Rapides Parish**

Ft. Randolph - Civil War park development  
Port of Alexandria - Transit shed expansion

## **Natchitoches Parish**

Port of Natchitoches - Dock/Fill project  
Natchitoches - Grand Ecore, Phase II

## **Red River Parish**

Red River Parish Port - Initial phase  
Red River Parish Port - ISG

## **Caddo/Bossier Parish**

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Omni Industries project  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Slack water slip/shipbuilding facility  
City of Bossier City - Riverwalk  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Steelscape project  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Material Handling Equipment

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*These projects represent over \$20 million in funding assistance from the RRWC.*

Johnny B. Bradberry, Chairman; Ed Preau, Acting Chairman; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Vice Chairman; James F. Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer; Kenneth P. Guidry, Executive Director.  
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*For more information, call the Red River Waterway Commission at 1-800-874-9431.*

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