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## **Chattahoochee Veneer**

Eufaula (Barbour County)

**In 2002, Chattahoochee Veneer installed a Hurst wood-fired boiler that could supply steam to their three drying kilns.**

Chattahoochee Veneer, LLC is a manufacturer of hardwood veneers for commercial and residential customers. They purchase hardwood logs, which are debarked and then fed into two lathes. The veneer coming off the lathes is stacked and moved to the dryer. The dryer is heated by steam produced by the wood-fired boiler.

Chattahoochee Veneer is operating a Hurst wood-fired boiler to supply steam to their three drying kilns. The boiler system consists of the boiler actual, a fuel silo holding hogged bark and wood fiber, automatic fuel augering, a chemical premix and preheat water tank, automatic ash removal system with cyclonic filtering and auto reburn of combustibles. The wood fuel is moved manually from the storage silo to the fuel metering auger inside the boilerhouse. The boiler is kept fired 24 hours per day, 5 days per week while to support the kilns operation. The boiler is brought down each weekend and re-fired the following Monday morning. There is no dedicated boiler operator on site, but the system has the capability of remote internet access to allow Hurst technical support to monitor or control the system if needed. The Chattahoochee Veneer system was designed to burn very wet hogged bark, chips, and shavings. The moisture content of the fuel is typically 40-50%  $MC_{wb}$ .

Gary Barnett, owner of Chattahoochee Veneer has ascribed his company's continuing success to their participation in the Biomass Energy Program. According to him, without the transition to a wood-waste fired boiler and the subsidy grant that made it possible, they would have been closed down due to the rising cost of natural gas fuel for their drying kilns.