

Paper Mill Woodyard  
Modifications

LOCATION  
Franklin, VA

CUSTOMER  
Quality Plus Services

DESCRIPTION  
Diamond wire  
sawing woodyard  
piers.



## *Recycling Concrete Blocks for Foundations*

At a large paper mill in Virginia, Bluegrass utilized diamond wire sawing to segment four long concrete beams into fifty ton blocks that could be recycled as foundations for new mill equipment. Bluegrass' client, Quality Plus Services, was contracted to replace equipment at the International Paper mill in Franklin, Virginia.

Four of parallel sixty foot beams supported each of two debarkers, and seven concrete piers held up each of the long beams. In cross-section, the big beams measured eight feet tall by five feet wide. Logs, each thirty feet or more in length, were inserted into one end of the debarkers and rotated to remove their bark.

The concrete piers, or columns, stood about six feet from grade up to the bottom of the eight feet tall beams. Bluegrass' first task was to diamond wire saw the beams loose from the piers with horizontal cuts. "We could cut about four piers at once, with one wire-saw setup," says David Kreider, Bluegrass project manager. "Then we cut each beam vertically into five or six fifty ton pieces, each about ten feet long. It was really like Wire Sawing 101."

Bluegrass used three or four diamond wire saws simultaneously on the project, and several core drills were in operation. "All of our cutting was based on not using any shoring," says Kreider. "We always made vertical cuts in the beams over the piers, so that the pier could support both ends of the beam."

Bluegrass drilled and rigged the big blocks so they could be lifted away from the piers. The blocks were placed in an excavation, anchored together and used as a foundation for a paper mill processing tank.