Verso Paper Corp. Form 3 January 09, 2009

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting

Person *

 PRESS ERIC

(Last)

(First) (Middle)

Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

12/31/2008

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Verso Paper Corp. [VRS]

C/O APOLLO MANAGEMENT, L.P., 9 WEST 57TH STREET

(Street)

4. Relationship of Reporting

Person(s) to Issuer

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner _X_ Director Officer Other (give title below) (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting

Person

Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

NEW YORK. NYÂ 10019

(City) (State)

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

(Zip)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form:

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

(Instr. 5)

Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially

Date

owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying **Derivative Security**

4 Conversion or Exercise Price of

5. Ownership Form of Derivative

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

(Instr. 4)

Expiration Title Exercisable Date

Amount or Number of

Derivative Security: Security Direct (D)

Shares

or Indirect
(I)
(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

PRESS ERIC

C/O APOLLO MANAGEMENT, L.P. 9 WEST 57TH STREET

ÂX

Â

Â

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

Signatures

/s/ Peter H. Kesser, attorney

01/08/2009

Date

in fact

**Signature of Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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Remarks:

No securities are beneficially owned.

See Exhibit 99.1

See Exhibit 24 - Confirming Statement

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Reporting Owners 2