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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**River Metals Recycling Earns SHARP Status for Excellence in Safety and Health**

*Owensboro Scrap Recycler has had no work-related injuries or illnesses for six years straight*

**OWENSBORO, Ky. (Jan. 29, 2015)** – Kentucky Labor Cabinet Deputy Secretary Rocky Comito today presented River Metals Recycling LLC (RMR) Owensboro a plaque and a flag signifying the company’s certification under the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). The facility joins River Metals Recycling in Newport as one of only 24 active SHARP sites in Kentucky – and the only one in Owensboro.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts applauded RMR Owensboro’s record of no incidents for the last six years.

“River Metals Recycling has an approach that puts safety at the forefront of everything it does,” said Secretary Roberts. “SHARP companies are an elite group, and it’s a testament to RMR’s high dedication to safety that its Owensboro and Newport facilities have SHARP status.”

Formed in 1998, RMR is the largest scrap recycler in Kentucky, employing nearly 300 people. Including the Owensboro facility, the company has nine locations in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

“River Metals Recycling employees’ commitment to safety has never been stronger, and this award reflects the entire team’s goal of zero accidents,” said Bob Eviston, RMR

president. “Safety is our number one focus, and providing a safe work environment is our primary responsibility.”

With 11 employees, the RMR Owensboro facility specializes in scrap recycling services for households, tradesmen and businesses. The Owensboro recycling center buys ferrous scrap as well as common household nonferrous scrap metal items like aluminum cans and other aluminum, stainless steel, copper and brass product, and operates a car crusher on site.

To qualify for SHARP designation, an employer must undergo a comprehensive evaluation and series of audits, correct any identified hazards, demonstrate that effective safety and health programs are in place, and maintain injury rates below the national average for its industry for the last three years.

RMR Owensboro has an incident rate of zero for the past six years. The national average for the metals recycling industry is approximately 3.5 total injuries and illnesses that result in days away from work, restricted activity or transferred to another job, per 100 full-time employees for one year.

The U.S. Department of Labor designed SHARP to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health among employers and create a proactive partnership with its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Although companies must meet federal standards for the program, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the award, as Kentucky has operated its own federally-approved Occupational Safety and Health (KY OSH) program for more than 40 years.

Companies must have a safety and health program that involves all employees in finding and correcting existing or possible future hazards as they develop. SHARP’s certification is good for two years, and then the company is eligible for renewal. A company is exempted from scheduled KY OSH compliance inspections during the certification period, but partners with KY OSH continue striving to improve their safety program.

For the benefits of SHARP, click [here](#).

For more on the KY OSH program, click [here](#).

For details on RMR, visit [www.rmrecycling.com](http://www.rmrecycling.com).

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