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General Shale's Piney Flats Plant Reaches Employee Safety Milestone

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – General Shale has achieved a milestone record of 500,000 consecutive hours without a lost-time injury at the General Shale Tri-Cities Block Plant in Piney Flats, Tennessee.

Headquartered in Johnson City, Tennessee, General Shale is the North American subsidiary of Wienerberger AG and a leading manufacturer of brick, one of the world's oldest green building materials.

With approximately 50 employees, the General Shale Tri-Cities Block Plant operates two production shifts for manufacturing concrete block and pavers, cast stone, retaining wall block and outdoor living products. This facility has not experienced any lost-time injuries since 2009.

“At General Shale, we work hard to keep our employees safe on the job, and I am proud of the General Shale Tri-Cities Block Plant team for reaching this milestone,” says Charles Smith, president and CEO of General Shale. “This achievement demonstrates our commitment to effective practices and policies to facilitate workplace safety at all of our locations throughout North America.”

General Shale goes above and beyond state and federal safety regulations, completing internal department inspections on a monthly basis. In addition to mandated annual safety training, employees participate in weekly safety discussions. The weekly sessions provide education, training and reminders about the company's safety policies.

“We take every measure to maintain a safe and healthy work environment for our employees,” says Brian Ogle, General Shale's corporate safety and risk manager for North America. “We are pleased with the success we have seen with our lost-time injury minimization efforts. General Shale will continue to set, meet and evaluate stringent procedures to ensure the safety of our employees.”

ABOUT GENERAL SHALE

General Shale is North America's largest brick, stone and concrete block manufacturer, supplying a wide variety of masonry materials for residential, commercial and specialty architectural projects. These materials include brick, thin veneers, stone, outdoor living kits, concrete block and various building materials. The company offers an endless array of sizes, colors and textures to complete any building project. With a life cycle of more than 100 years, the sustainability of brick is the company's commitment to responsible stewardship.

Throughout the U.S. and Canada, General Shale operates manufacturing facilities in nine states and provinces, in addition to a network of more than 50 distribution centers across the country. General Shale was founded in 1928 and is headquartered in Johnson City, Tennessee. For more information, visit www.generalshale.com.

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