

Appleton May Sell C&H Packaging Unit

Appleton Papers Inc. said Monday that it intends to explore options to sell C&H Packaging Co., a Merrill printer and converter of flexible plastic packaging materials for companies in the food processing, household and industrial products industries.

Appleton acquired C&H Packaging in April 2003. The wholly owned subsidiary employs approximately 100 people.

Appleton's chief executive officer, Mark Richards, said that Appleton intends to focus its performance packaging operations on film production. Appleton's film-producing facilities include American Plastics in Rhinelander and New England Extrusion in Turners Falls, Mass., which includes a Wisconsin plant in Milton.

Employee-owned Appleton said a sale of C&H Packaging could have a material impact on its financial statements. The company gave no assurances that a transaction will occur.

The Appleton-based maker of carbonless, thermal, security and performance packaging products has production operations in Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, and employs about 2,200 workers.

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