

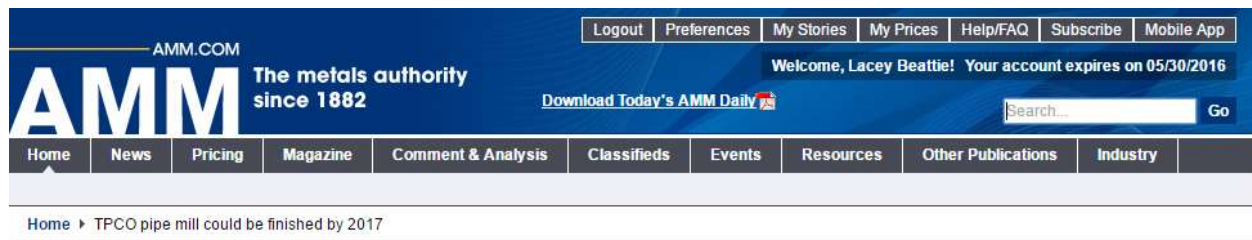
American Metal Market

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Link: <http://www.amm.com/Article/3552852/TPCO-pipe-mill-could-be-finished-by-2017.html>

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The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the AMM.COM website. It includes a logo for AMM.COM with the tagline 'The metals authority since 1882'. Navigation links include Logout, Preferences, My Stories, My Prices, Help/FAQ, Subscribe, and Mobile App. A user greeting reads 'Welcome, Lacey Beattie! Your account expires on 05/30/2016'. There is a search bar and a 'Download Today's AMM Daily' button. A horizontal menu contains links for Home, News, Pricing, Magazine, Comment & Analysis, Classifieds, Events, Resources, Other Publications, and Industry. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > TPCO pipe mill could be finished by 2017'.

TPCO pipe mill could be finished by 2017

May 09, 2016 | 03:30 PM | Nat Rudarakanchana

Tags [steel](#), [pipe](#), [pipe and tube](#), [seamless pipe](#), [TPCO](#), [Tianjin Pipe Group](#), [Corpus Christi](#), [energy](#) [oil and gas](#)

NEW YORK — Construction of a U.S. seamless pipe mill owned by Chinese producer Tianjin Pipe Group Corp. (TPCO) is scheduled for completion by the end of 2016.

"The pipe rolling mill construction will be complete by the end of this year," a TPCO America Corp. spokesman told *AMM* via e-mail May 9, noting that this rolling mill will utilize a hearth rotary furnace. "Cold and hot commissioning will begin, and first production is scheduled for the second quarter of 2017."

The planned 500,000-tonne-per-year seamless pipe mill in Corpus Christi, Texas, involves a more than \$1-billion investment by TPCO—the largest single investment by a Chinese company in a greenfield U.S. manufacturing facility, according to TPCO America.

TPCO in China now exports seamless steel pipe to more than 100 countries and expects that the Corpus Christi mill will also "develop a substantial export market," TPCO America said May 2.

Still, the mill will also sell pipe to U.S. energy companies from the 253-acre steelmaking complex, the company said.

"By supplying seamless steel pipe as an alternative to imported seamless steel pipe, TPCO America will help promote domestic energy security and domestic manufacturing output," the company said.

Presently, the company employs more than 50 people in the operation of its finishing facility, which shipped its first processed pipe in April 2015 (*amm.com*, April 15, 2015).

Up to 25 percent of the mill's production could be destined for export, Port of Corpus Christi executive director John LaRue told *AMM* May 6, noting that the port organization has worked on the TPCO project since 2008.

Those export targets were initial projections by TPCO, and could even be revised upward, given the difficult North American energy market, LaRue said.

"The market's difficult right now. There's no denying that. That might lead to more exports" from TPCO, especially to Latin American countries, he said.

He cited in-land shale formations in Colombia, and a corresponding ramp-up in the country's oil production, as one example of higher energy activity in Latin America.

The TPCO facility could employ from 600 to 800 people when complete, and could indirectly support up to six times that number of jobs, Tommy Kurtz, vice president for business and strategic development at the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corp., told *AMM* May 6.

The plant will benefit from its location, at a site near one of the highest concentrations of electrical power in south Texas, LaRue said.

"I think they're ready to get it complete. It's been a long time, and they want to get it done," he said.

The build-out of TPCO's pipe facility has suffered delays in recent years. TPCO selected the site in July 2008 (*amm.com*, **March 20, 2013**), and the project broke ground in 2011 (*amm.com*, **Aug. 31, 2011**).

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