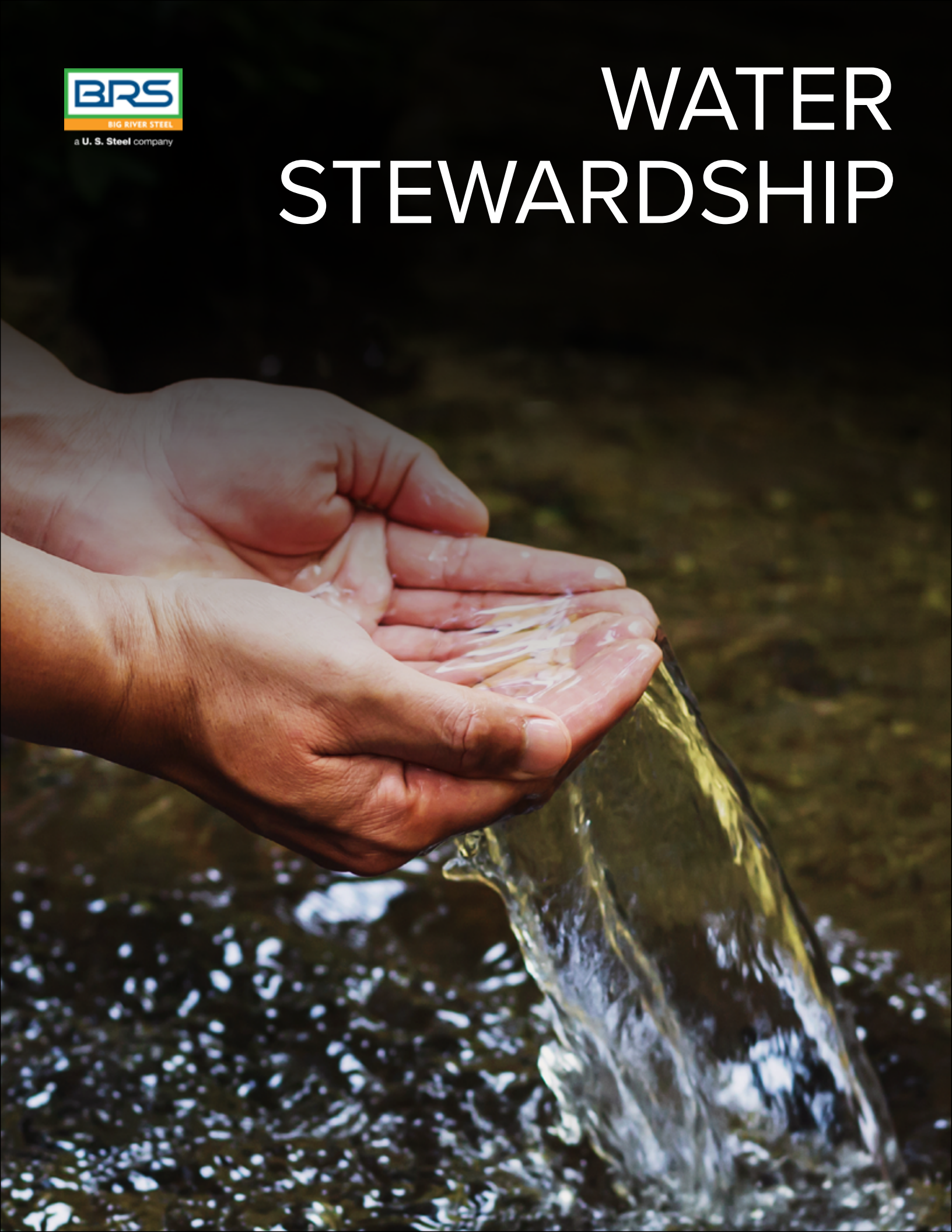
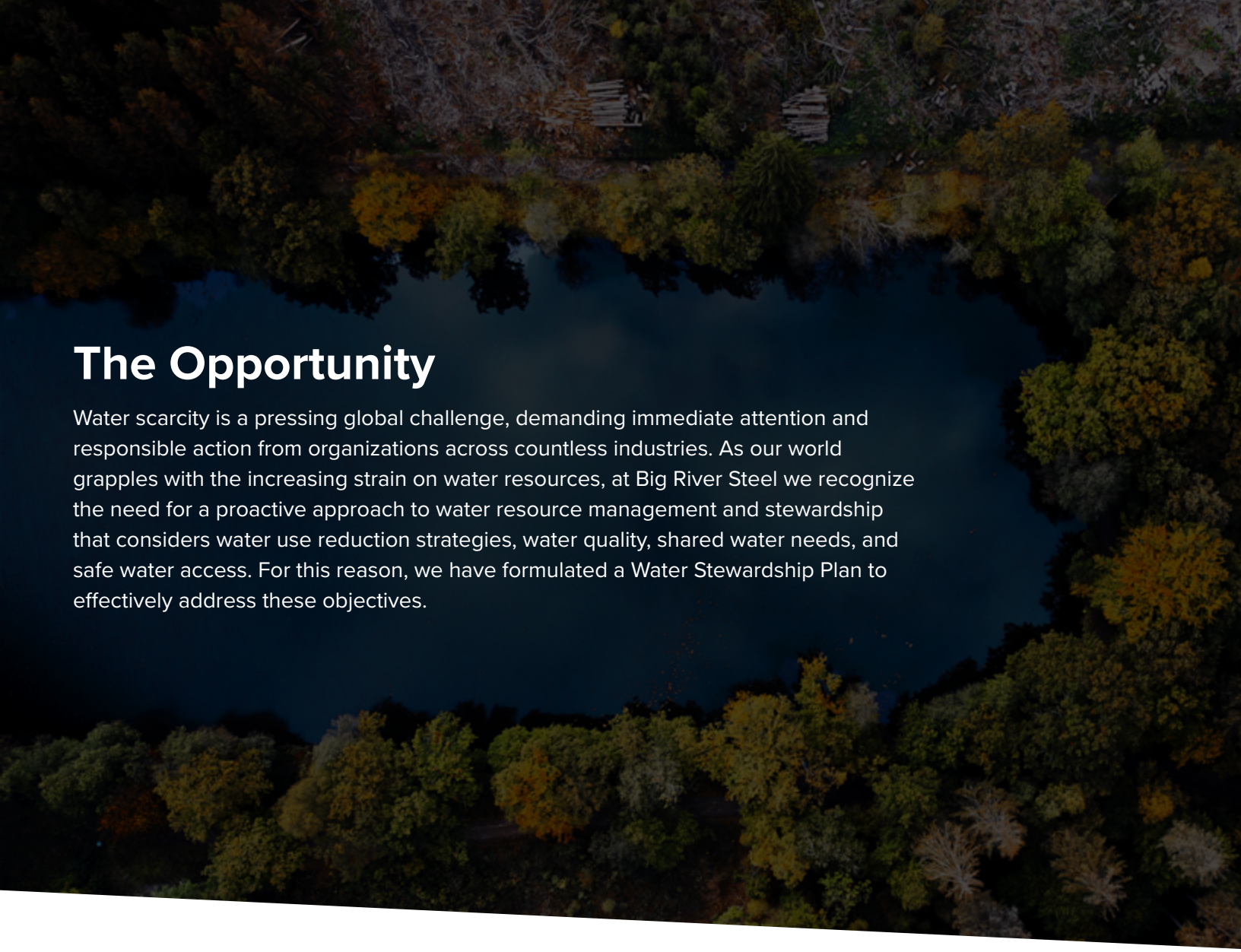
BIG RIVER STEEL
a U. S. Steel company

WATER STEWARDSHIP





The Opportunity

Water scarcity is a pressing global challenge, demanding immediate attention and responsible action from organizations across countless industries. As our world grapples with the increasing strain on water resources, at Big River Steel we recognize the need for a proactive approach to water resource management and stewardship that considers water use reduction strategies, water quality, shared water needs, and safe water access. For this reason, we have formulated a Water Stewardship Plan to effectively address these objectives.

How Steel Production Can Impact Water Resources

Steel production, a vital industry supporting infrastructure and development, can significantly impact water resources throughout its life cycle. From start to finish, water plays a critical role but is often subjected to various pressures and potential consequences.

During steel manufacturing, a notable amount of water is used

- Potential Local Impact: Water availability in Wilcox and Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifers

Steel production generates wastewater that requires appropriate treatment to preserve water quality and maintain water body health

- Potential Local Impact: Water quality and ecological health of the Mississippi River

At Big River Steel, we understand the importance of addressing these impacts and actively seek forward-looking solutions to responsibly manage our water use throughout the entire steel production process. Through ongoing research and development, certifications, collaboration with stakeholders, and continuous improvement initiatives, we are committed to optimizing our water use and operating as a sustainable and environmentally responsible steel producer.

Our Water Stewardship Strategies

Big River Steel has consistently pursued and remains committed to the mission of optimizing water use and mitigating the facility's environmental footprint on local water resources.

2014 Big River Steel was founded

2017 Big River Steel became LEED certified

2020 The first Water Stewardship Plan launched with updates made in 2021 and 2023

Lamella system installation began during Phase II construction of Big River Steel. Installation was completed in 2021.

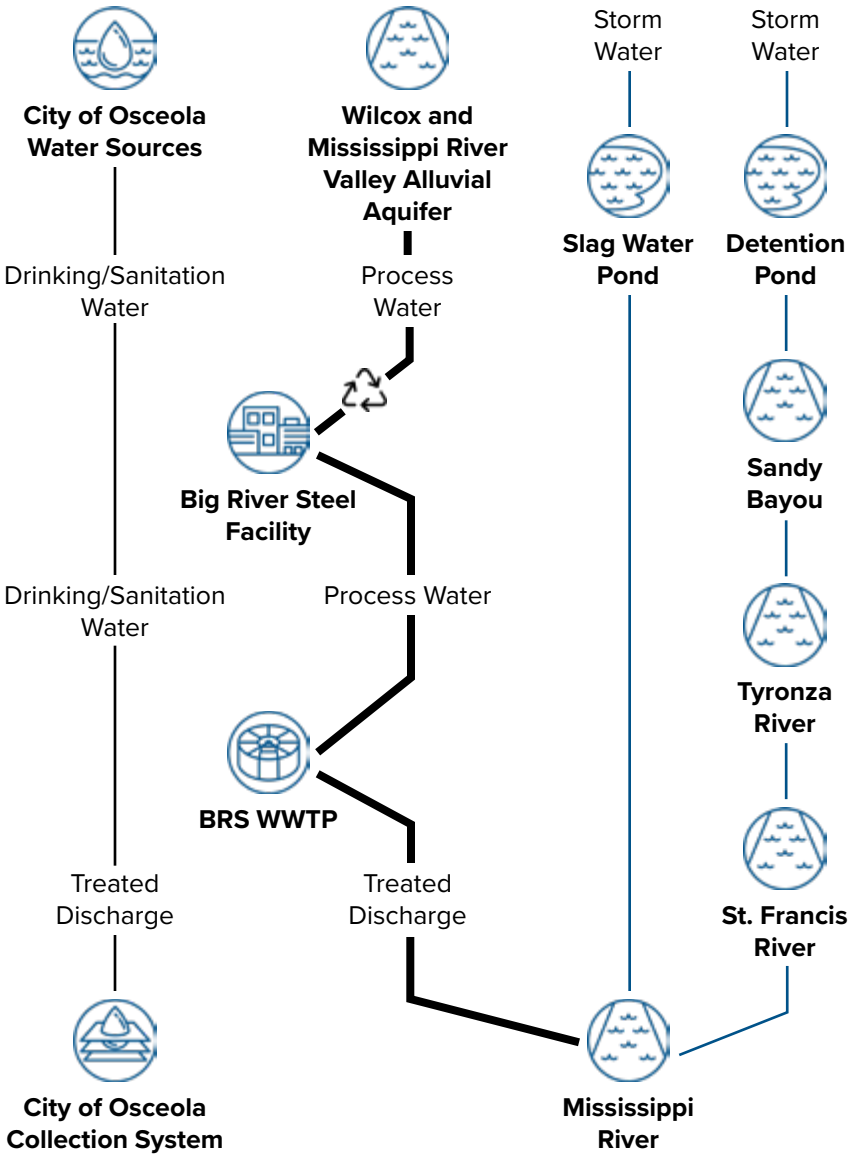
2023 **June 22**
The Inaugural Mississippi County Watershed Forum was held in Osceola, AR

Water Balance and Monitoring

Good water stewards understand both their own water use and catchment (areas where water flows and is stored, such as aquifers and river basins) context. With our water balance system, we can document and assess baseline water use throughout our entire facility. This provides evidence and insight for establishing water reduction goals and documenting progress toward them.

Continuous water monitoring data helps us understand:

- Annual operational patterns
- Seasonal variability
- Local conditions
- Opportunities for water conservation



On-Site Discharge Testing

At Big River Steel, we are dedicated to safeguarding water quality as our site runoff is released into the Mississippi River. To uphold this commitment, we have developed and implemented action plans to manage incidents in a responsible manner to eliminate or minimize environmental impacts. The following are the primary incident response plans and mitigation measures in place:

- Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits

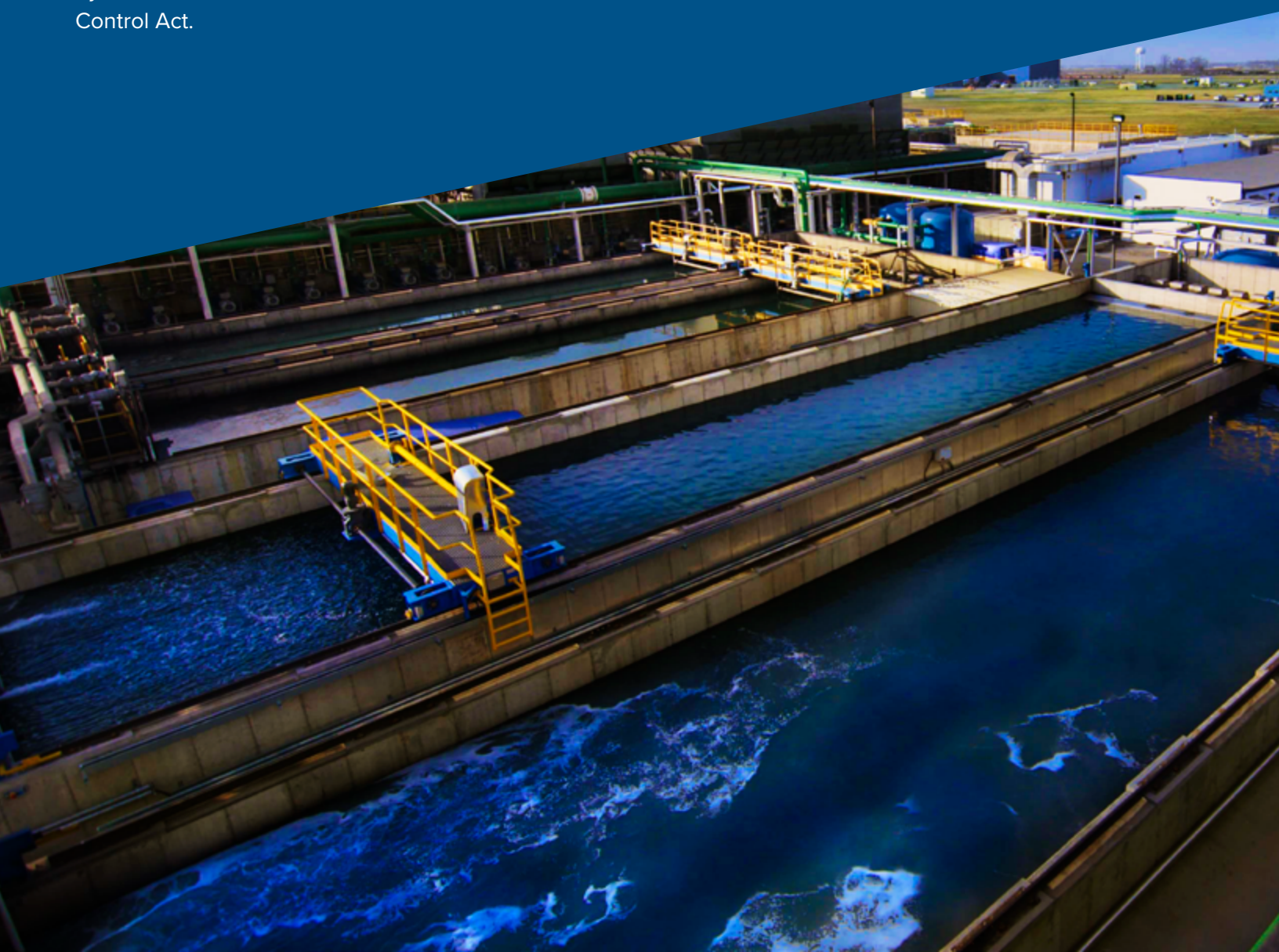
All response plans and measures are in compliance with both the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act.

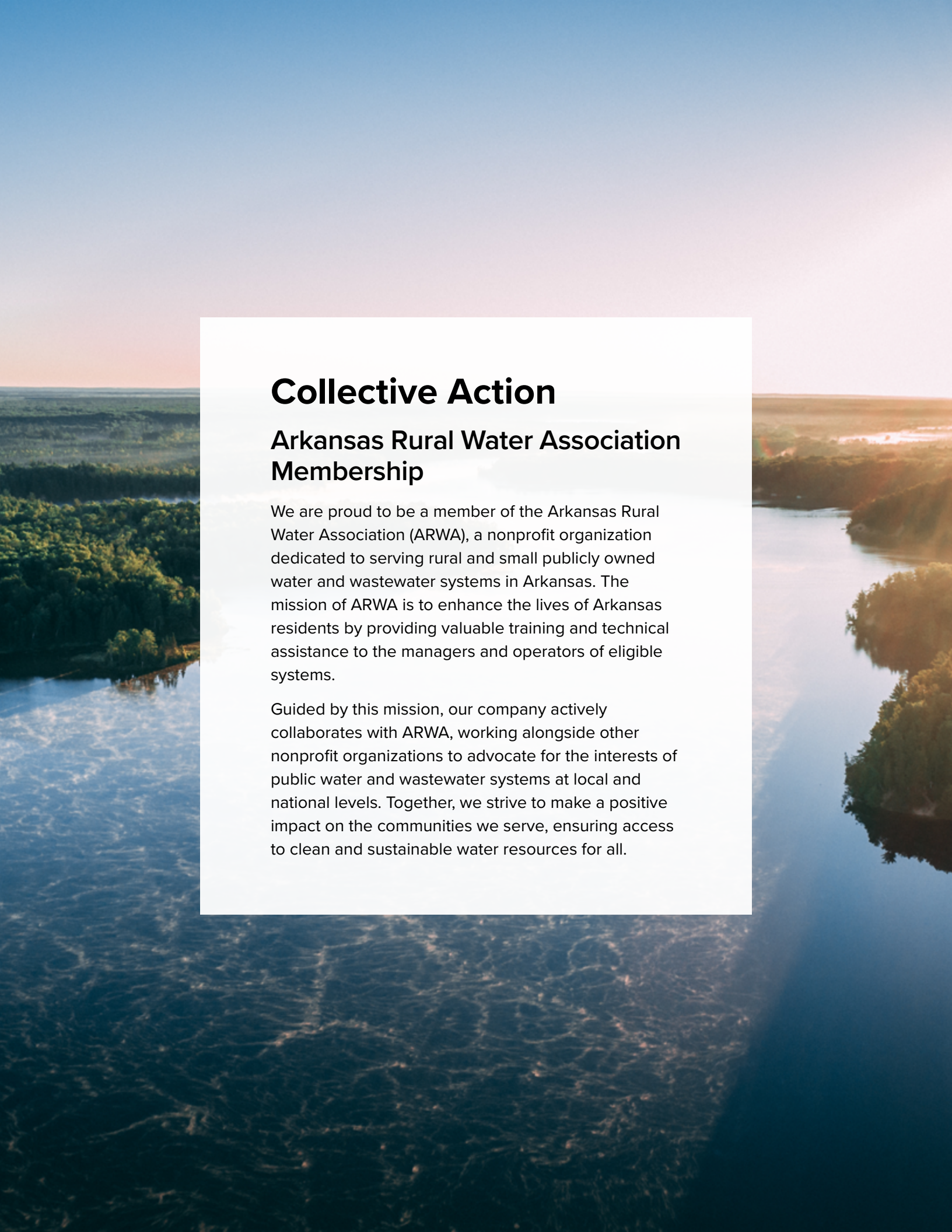
Comprehensive Water Recycling Program

After extensive research and development, Big River Steel has successfully implemented a cutting-edge water recycling system using a lamella clarifier.

This comprehensive program plays a pivotal role in conserving local water resources. By recycling and reusing water in our operations, we now have the infrastructure to reduce our water consumption and discharge, thereby mitigating our environmental impact.

We are continuously exploring ways to improve water recycling to help the steel industry and others raise the standards for responsible water resource management.





Collective Action

Arkansas Rural Water Association Membership

We are proud to be a member of the Arkansas Rural Water Association (ARWA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving rural and small publicly owned water and wastewater systems in Arkansas. The mission of ARWA is to enhance the lives of Arkansas residents by providing valuable training and technical assistance to the managers and operators of eligible systems.

Guided by this mission, our company actively collaborates with ARWA, working alongside other nonprofit organizations to advocate for the interests of public water and wastewater systems at local and national levels. Together, we strive to make a positive impact on the communities we serve, ensuring access to clean and sustainable water resources for all.

How Big River Steel Contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a global blueprint for achieving a sustainable future. SDG 6 states that we should "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Through our water stewardship approach, we not only hold ourselves accountable for the impacts of steel manufacturing on water resources, but also set a standard for the entire steel industry. We firmly believe that by leading the way in sustainable practices, we can inspire and motivate others to embrace responsible water resource management.

Together, we can create a future where water is conserved, protected, and made accessible to all, leaving a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.

How You Can Help

Water Stewardship Advisory Committee

ROLE

Guide Big River Steel and local entities in developing best management practices

Address evolving water needs and concerns

Collaborative community water planning

Shared performance tracking and implementation of best management practices

Participate in ongoing meetings and initiatives

GOALS

Build cooperative relationships between Big River Steel and local stakeholders in a shared effort to sustainably manage water

Meet water needs of the community

Plan for future water use

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

Partner with local industry stakeholders to protect water resources

Have a voice in how community water resources are used and shared

Help identify issues before they become major problems

Share knowledge and expertise among stakeholders with similar interests

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Join the committee and invite others to join with you

Attend meetings

Provide input through surveys and participate in data collection

Create a water stewardship plan for your facility/business

Implement any best practices discovered here for your facility/business

Learn More

ResponsibleSteel Certification

Arkansas Rural Water

For more information on Big River Steel's water stewardship efforts or questions, contact us at green@bigriversteel.com