



## NEWS RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Michelle Cantey

Email: [marketingpr@sc.rr.com](mailto:marketingpr@sc.rr.com)

Phone: 843.655.5043

For immediate release

## Local Independent Food Distributor Opens In Horry County

LORIS (SC) – June 17, 2009 -- The City of Loris and the coastal restaurant community welcomed Carolina Food Service of Loris, Horry County's only local independent food distributor, during a grand opening celebration held Wednesday at its corporate headquarters and distribution center, 3671 Ralph Ellis Boulevard.

In 2006, Carolina Food Service of Loris purchased a 35,000 square-foot shell building constructed by Santee Cooper and located in the Loris Commerce Center. Since then, the restaurant supply and food distribution company has invested \$2.8 million and projects hiring up to 25 jobs within the company's first year. It has already begun hiring administrative and sales staff as well as warehouse and delivery employees.

"This is exactly the kind of diversification we've been looking for in securing business and industry for the Loris Commerce Center. The high caliber of this organization will be an asset for the thriving industry that it serves," stated David Stoudenmire, mayor of Loris. "This is a big day for our community and for Horry County."

"Today marks a major milestone in a journey that actually started 15 years ago for Santee Cooper, when we began looking at how we could best serve economic development efforts in this region," said R.M. Singletary, senior vice president for corporate services for Santee Cooper. "We developed the Loris Commerce Center and took a giant step for us in building a shell building here. It's very gratifying to see the building as home for such a unique business that will bring a much-needed service to Loris and all of Horry County. I extend my heartiest welcome to Carolina Food Service and look forward to enjoying your products in fine restaurants all around here, for years to come."

"We congratulate Carolina Food Service upon its opening. Loris and the entire region will benefit from the creation of this new facility. We wish Legrande Dorman and Carolina Food Service owners much success as they move forward from the opening to the operation phase," stated SC Senator Dick Elliott.

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“Carolina Food Service of Loris is a perfect example of smart Horry County businessmen seeing a niche and stepping up to fill it. They have already exceeded projections in their first few weeks and such an incredible start bodes well for a successful future,” said Liz Gilland, chair of Horry County Council.

Affiliated with restaurants in Horry, Georgetown, and Marion Counties as well as Wilmington, NC, Carolina Food Service of Loris was founded by 10 investors who understood the need for a food service distribution center.

“We decided to open such a local distribution center based on the vast potential throughout our service area,” Villapando explained. “Carolina Food Service of Loris is very proud to be in Horry County and to supply the area’s food service needs. It is important to our company that we become a part of the communities we service. We’re sincere about having a quality product to meet the customers’ needs at acceptable prices. Every one of our customers is an MVP (Most Valuable Partner). However, big or small, they’re our partners and we treat everyone equally. ”

According to Carolina Food Service of Loris’ Chairman Salvador Villapando, the company selected the Loris facility based on its central location.

“The Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation was very fortunate to work with Carolina Food Service of Loris in its quest for the perfect location. We’re very excited to have this new business open in Horry County and to provide our residents with new job opportunities. We commend Santee Cooper and the City of Loris for their foresight in building the spec building at the Loris Commerce Center,” commented Hugh Owens, President and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation. “Given the thousands of restaurants in our surrounding communities, we believe Carolina Food Service of Loris will provide a valuable service in the daily operations of our local eateries. We are pleased to be a part of this celebration.”

According to company president Legrande Dorman, Carolina Food Service of Loris will service restaurants, churches, healthcare facilities, snack bars and golf courses throughout the Carolinas. The full service company will also provide specialty foods, paper products, cooking utensils and general inventory a restaurant might need. The Loris facility features the corporate office and distribution center as well as a will call room. Plans are already underway for Carolina Food Service of Loris’ USDA meat-cutting department, which will further meet clients’ needs.

### **About Santee Cooper**

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility, and the state's largest power producer, supplying electricity to more than 163,000 retail customers in Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry counties, as well as to 31 large industrial facilities, the cities of Bamberg and Georgetown, and the Charleston Air Force Base. Santee Cooper also generates the power distributed by the state's 20 electric cooperatives to more than 685,000 customers in all 46 counties.

Approximately 2 million South Carolinians receive their power directly or indirectly from Santee Cooper. The utility also provides water to 137,000 consumers in Berkeley and Dorchester counties, and the town of Santee. For more information, visit [www.santeecooper.com](http://www.santeecooper.com). For information on how Santee Cooper lives green and how you can go green, visit [www.SanteeCooperGreen.com](http://www.SanteeCooperGreen.com).

#### **About MBREDC**

The MBREDC is a public-private partnership that works closely with new and existing industry, site selectors and economic development professionals to promote economic growth in Horry County. Since 2006, it has worked to recruit 543 jobs and \$56.5 million in capital investments. Serving on the Executive Committee are Jimmy Yahnis, Mike Brown, Franklin Daniels, Richard Singleton, John Laymon, Carl Schwartzkopf, Dodd Smith, Neyle Wilson and Adam Parness. For more information, visit [www.mbredc.org](http://www.mbredc.org).

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