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Vale adjusts nickel production to global demand

Rio de Janeiro, April 16, 2009 – Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (Vale) announces that it has taken further steps to adjust its nickel production to the evolution of global demand. In light of a global recessionary environment, Vale retains the option of managing production and project execution according to its assessment of market conditions.

Consistent with this guideline, we decided to slowdown the conclusion of the Onça Puma nickel project, state of Pará, Brazil, previously scheduled to come on stream in January 2010, with a nominal capacity of 58,000 metric tons of nickel in ferronickel. Given that an environmental permit is still pending, the start-up of Onça Puma will be postponed by at least one year.

Vale is shutting down for a period of eight weeks - from June 1 to July 27 - its nickel mining and processing facilities at Sudbury, province of Ontario, Canada. The shutdown will follow a previously planned normal maintenance period at the Sudbury plants during May. In addition, our processing facilities of precious metals – a by-product of nickel mining in Sudbury – at Port Colborne, Ontario, will also be shutdown from June 1 to July 27, 2009.

Sudbury is one of the largest nickel producing sites in the world and last year its mines provided the feed for the production of 85,300 metric tons of finished nickel, 31% of Vale's output.