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08/03/2009



Vale informs about strike in Voisey's Bay operations

Vale informs that the unionized employees at its operations in Voisey's Bay, province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, went on strike on Saturday, August 1, 2009, after rejecting the company's settlement offer for a new three-year collective bargaining agreement.

Our proposal aims to provide the right incentives to labor productivity growth and to enhance the foundations of our long-term competitiveness and capacity to continue to generate value.

The strike affects 120 employees at our mining operations in Voisey's Bay.

In 2008, finished nickel output utilizing nickel ore produced by the Ovoid mine at the Voisey's Bay operations reached 77,500 metric tons, 28% of our total production. This site also produced 55,000 metric tons of copper in concentrate and 1,695 metric tons of cobalt, 18% and 60% of Vale's total output, respectively, last year.

As previously disclosed, the Voisey's Bay operations began a one-month shutdown period on July 1, 2009, and were scheduled to resume operations on August 1, 2009.

More information



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