



Press Release



Vale declares force majeure at VNC

Rio de Janeiro, May 10, 2012 – Vale S.A. (Vale) informs that Vale New Caledonia (VNC), our nickel operation in New Caledonia, has declared force majeure (FM), effective today, on nickel sales to one customer and with a select group of suppliers. We have communicated to the customer and related suppliers as required under our agreements with them.

This was declared due to an incident in the acid plant. There were no employees affected and no environmental damage caused. We are still assessing the extent of the damage to the acid plant and we will disclose further information related to this event when it has been fully technically assessed.

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This press release may include statements that present Vale's expectations about future events or results. All statements, when based upon expectations about the future and not on historical facts, involve various risks and uncertainties. Vale cannot guarantee that such statements will prove correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors related to the following: (a) the countries where we operate, especially Brazil and Canada; (b) the global economy; (c) the capital markets; (d) the mining and metals prices and their dependence on global industrial production, which is cyclical by nature; and (e) global competition in the markets in which Vale operates. To obtain further information on factors that may lead to results different from those forecast by Vale, please consult the reports Vale files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Brazilian Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (CVM), the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, and in particular the factors discussed under "Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors" in Vale's annual report on Form 20-F.