



## Vale stops temporarily underground mining operations in the Sudbury Basin

Rio de Janeiro, January 31, 2012 – Vale S.A. (Vale) informs that its underground nickel mines in the Sudbury Basin in Canada have temporarily stopped operation.

Given an accident which caused a fatality last Sunday, January 29, the stoppage was made in order to conduct a general review of safety conditions in the mines. As we have a strong focus on health and safety, the review is being made in order to minimize accident risks, which are regrettable given not only the negative economic consequences but primarily due to the likelihood of human losses.

There is no impact on finished nickel production as the Clarabelle mill and the Copper Cliff smelter and the Copper Cliff nickel refinery continue to operate normally with sufficient feed stock for the near term.

As soon as the Sudbury underground mining operations return to normalcy Vale will make it public.

---

**For further information, please contact:**

+55-21-3814-4540

Roberto Castello Branco: roberto.castello.branco@vale.com

Viktor Moszkowicz: viktor.moszkowicz@vale.com

Carla Albano Miller: carla.albano@vale.com

Andrea Gutman: andrea.gutman@vale.com

Christian Perlingiere: christian.perlingiere@vale.com

Fernando Frey: fernando.frey@vale.com

Marcio Loures Penna: marcio.penna@vale.com

Samantha Pons: samantha.pons@vale.com

Thomaz Freire: thomaz.freire@vale.com

This press release may include declarations about Vale's expectations regarding future events or results. All declarations based upon future expectations, rather than historical facts, are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Vale cannot guarantee that such declarations will prove to be correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors related to the following: (a) the countries where Vale operates, mainly Brazil and Canada; (b) the global economy; (c) capital markets; (d) the mining and metals businesses and their dependence upon global industrial production, which is cyclical by nature; and (e) the high degree of global competition in the markets in which Vale operates. To obtain further information on factors that may give rise to results different from those forecast by Vale, please consult the reports filed with the Brazilian Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (CVM), the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including Vale's most recent Annual Report on Form 20F and its reports on Form 6K.