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Conflict Minerals

Thank you for your call. Vale recognizes that, pursuant to the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act* (the "Act"), companies that file reports with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") will soon be required to disclose whether "conflict minerals" (as defined in the Act), that are "necessary to the functionality or production of a product manufactured by such person", did originate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the "DRC") or an adjoining country.

To date, the SEC has yet to promulgate rules governing the new disclosure obligations and, as such, Vale is unable to confirm its compliance with the Act. We assure our customers that we are committed to ensuring our full compliance with the Act once the requirements are clear and in force.

We confirm that, at this time, to the best of our knowledge, information and belief, but without conducting any due diligence whatsoever, conflict minerals supplied by Vale Americas Inc. did not originate from the DRC or an adjoining country.

We thank you for your continued business. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Brian Fogelson
Regional Sales Manager
Vale Americas, Inc.