



**MOUNT ISA
MINES**

MEDIA RELEASE

Technical investigation at Mount Isa air monitor

Mount Isa, 19 February 2010

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines has informed the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) of a potential exceedance for lead at one of five high-volume air sampling stations in Mount Isa for the October to December 2009 period.

During this period, Xstrata's other four air quality monitors remained within regulatory limits, as did DERM's heavy metals air monitor. This is the first time such a result has been reported.

Upon becoming aware of this matter Xstrata launched an immediate investigation to verify the data.

Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Steve de Kruijff said Xstrata Mount Isa Mines takes the issue of any exceedances in the Mount Isa community very seriously.

"We are currently investigating this matter in order to verify the data," Mr de Kruijff said.

"This is a complex investigation which will need to consider all activities and aspects to validate the data.

"We have sent additional samples for analysis and are currently awaiting results.

"We will continue to work with DERM on this matter to ensure the community can continue to have full confidence in Mount Isa's comprehensive air quality monitoring system.

"The health and safety of our workers and the community is Xstrata Mount Isa Mines' highest priority."

ENDS

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Notes to editors

ABOUT XSTRATA PLC

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 19 countries.

ABOUT XSTRATA COPPER

Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its mining and metallurgical operations and development projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbraera, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with attributable mined production in 2009 of 907,000 tonnes of copper in cathodes and concentrates. The company is also one of the world's largest producers of smelter and refined copper, including from third party materials.

XSTRATA ZINC

Xstrata Zinc is one of the world's largest producers of zinc. Around half of all zinc currently consumed is used for galvanizing steel, which is an environmentally friendly method of protecting steel against corrosion. Zinc also finds application in the manufacture of die-cast alloys, brass and the production of zinc oxides and chemicals.

Xstrata's zinc and lead operations are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the UK. They comprise: the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, Spain; the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria, Spain; the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Mount Isa, George Fisher and Black Star zinc-lead mines and lead smelter in Queensland, Australia; McArthur River zinc-lead mine in the Northern Territory, Australia; the Northfleet lead refinery located in the UK; the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick, Canada, 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal, Canada; 50% of Lennard Shelf zinc lead mine in Western Australia; 75% of Lady Loretta zinc lead deposit in Queensland, Australia; 33.75% of Antamina mine in Peru and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.