

PRESS RELEASE

FO refusing to refer its concerns about safety and the environment to the board of Vale Inco New Caledonia

Vale Inco New Caledonia has become aware through the press of FO's publicly made declarations.

However, the company has no factual information allowing it to appraise the allegations questioning its environmental and safety management at the Southern Province plant.

Although the claimed operating errors in the Southern Province company's plant, referred to by FO representatives, are of paramount interest to the company, it has still not been given any report and from the start the union has refused to discuss matters with it.

Vale Inco New Caledonia cannot, therefore, comment on whether the facts stated are well founded.

The company is disappointed that the areas to which it gives priority, such as the environment and the safety and the health of its employees, should be discussed in this way without being shared with the company at any point.

The progressive commissioning of the Southern Province plant is being carried out with strict respect for the requirements set by the ICPE operating permit and the Seveso 2 standards applicable to it, being under the control of the relevant authorities who have the means of control provided for by law.

The company states that it is always ready to listen and to implement any suggestions for improvement which may be made to it.

Nouméa 10 September 09
Time: 1530

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