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Vale breaks ground on historic \$2 billion Clean AER Project in Canada

Joined by the Premier, government cabinet ministers, community leaders, local residents and employees, Vale today officially broke ground on its 2-billion Canadian Dollars "Clean AER Project", one of the largest single environmental investments in Ontario's history. The Clean AER Project, which stands for 'Atmospheric Emissions Reduction', will see sulphur dioxide at Vale's smelter in Sudbury reduced by 70% from current levels, as well as dust and metals emissions a further 35 to 40%. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

This is an historic day for Vale and demonstrates the importance that Greater Sudbury plays in our global operations," said John Pollesel, Chief Operating Officer of Vale Canada Limited and Director of Vale's North Atlantic Base Metals operations. "Starting today, we are building a lasting legacy for our employees, the community and future generations who will live and work in Greater Sudbury, and that is truly a reason to celebrate."

In addition to the environmental benefits, the Clean AER Project will result in significant economic benefits to the community. Vale estimates the project will require about 8-million person-hours of additional labour, with 1,300 additional workers needed on-site during the peak construction period. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

"Vale's Clean AER ground breaking represents yet another chapter in the success story that is the re-greening of Sudbury, and speaks to the company's commitment to the environment," said Ontario Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci.

"Just as our government has moved the yardsticks toward more sustainable mining practices, it is heartening to see Vale is proactively working to improve its own practices." Construction on the project will involve a complete retrofit of Vale's smelter converter aisle, the construction of a new secondary baghouse and wet gas cleaning plant, a second Acid Plant, and new material handling facilities to better prevent dust from entering the community, all while the smelter will continue to operate.

The reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions will put Vale below government regulated emissions limits by 2015, to 45 kilotonnes versus the regulatory limit of 66 kilotonnes per year. This reduction is in addition to the 90% reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions Vale has incorporated since 1970 and will serve to compliment the ongoing success story that is the re-greening of the Sudbury region.

Environment Minister Jim Bradley, who also served as Minister of the Environment in the 1980's, was on hand for the festivities.

"It is good to see Vale is living up to its environmental responsibilities, and is taking action to clean up the air in Sudbury," said Minister Bradley.

"For more than 100 years, Vale and its predecessors have played a leadership role in our community and in global mining," said Greater Sudbury Mayor Marianne Matichuk, who also participated in the event. "It's reassuring to see the

company continuing this hardwork. This project will further cement Greater Sudbury's position as a leader in environmental rehabilitation and green technology.

"For Project Director Dave Stefanuto, this groundbreaking represents the beginning of an exciting but very demanding period for Vale and the Clean AER Project team.

"This project is massive and will utilize the latest technological innovations available to us to retrofit our smelter complex," said Stefanuto. "Due to the complexities involved, we have put a lot of time, energy, and resources into ensuring the project is executed efficiently and safely, and I'm very pleased that we're now at a point where construction can begin.

"An assessment of Economic and Community Benefits for the project is currently being commissioned through KPMG in Sudbury, to better quantify what \$2 billion in spending will mean to the community. This report is expected to be completed this fall.

In 2010, Vale announced a planned five-year investment program of \$10 billion across Canada to enhance and expand its Canadian operations. Approximately \$3.4 billion of this expenditure is being spent on modernizing Vale's Sudbury Operations, including the Clean AER Project.

More information



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