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02/14/2006



Indians block Carajás railway again

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) informs that:

- 1) Indians led by the Guajajara community, based in the state of Maranhão, blocked on Tuesday (Feb 14) at around 9.30 am (Brazilian time) for the second time in a week the Carajás railway. The blockage took place at the km 289 of the railway near the city of Alto Alegre do Pindaré;
- 2) CVRD reaffirms the indigenous communities from the region have no claims against the Company. The Indian leaders invaded and blocked the Estrada de Ferro Carajás again to demand better health care services from the National Health Foundation (Funasa). That means the activities of a private company, in strict compliance with the contract terms of a concession signed with the Federal Government and with important economic and social effects for Brazil, are being victims of problems exclusively related to government agencies in charge of addressing indigenous issues and to the Indian communities. It is not up to CVRD to interfere;
- 3) It is important to state that, after holding four CVRD employees hostages for two days, the Indians are now failing to follow a court order, which is also a crime, a disobedience crime. On Feb 8th, a São Luís judge, from the 4th Vara Federal da Seção Judiciária, granted a court injunction determining the Indians to leave the railway immediately;
- 4) The EFC, which transports about 1,000 passengers daily and links Brazil's largest mineral province - the Carajás mines in northern Pará state - to the Ponta da Madeira port in São Luís in the Maranhão state, is a federal concession operated by CVRD. This is one of the railroads with the best performance indicators in the world and is responsible for the daily transport of iron ore, manganese, pig iron and soy, which are exported from the Ponta da Madeira port, also belonging to CVRD and with a key participation in Brazil's trade balance.
- 5) The transport of passengers is made with comfort and safety at the EFC trains, an important means of transportation for the residents of the region. Besides, the supply of fuel in the region also depends on the Carajás railroad. With the blockage, the transport of passengers was interrupted again. CVRD regrets the problems caused by the railroad blockage;
- 6) CVRD, the private company which invests most in Brazil with an investment plan of 11.8 billion reais, hopes such disagreements will be solved by the Indian National Foundation (Funai) and Funasa, allowing for the continuity of its operations, which are so relevant to Brazil and, in particular for that region. Such operations cannot be hurt by conflicts and interests unrelated to CVRD.

More information



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