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Furnace stoppage in France

Vale informs that the operations at its French subsidiary - Rio Doce Manganèse Europe (RDME) were interrupted due to a metal leakage in the electrical furnace.

As a consequence, production is expected to be interrupted for a period of six months resuming operations by February 2009. The company estimates that this shutdown will result in a drop in ferroalloy production of 45,000 metric tons. RDME has operated at 60% of its installed capacity since an accident in August 2007.

Vale is reverting its best efforts to use its total production capacity to minimize the impact on deliveries to customers.

More information



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