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Vale restarts furnace and ramps up production in Canada

Vale announced today that it has successfully restarted its #2 Furnace and is ramping up production at its Copper Cliff Smelter Complex in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

The #2 Furnace was restarted earlier this week following a re-building process as a result of a tapping block failure that occurred in February.

“We are pleased to be ramping up to full production at our Sudbury smelter,” said Jeff McLaughlin, Vale’s Vice-President of Smelting and Refining, North Atlantic Region. “Numerous design and operational improvements to the #2 Furnace will enhance furnace integrity and improve operational performance.”

The furnace stoppage is estimated to have entailed an output loss of 12,200 metric tonnes of finished nickel, representing approximately 4% of total nickel production planned for 2011.

More information



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