Dear

RE: PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE COEGA ALUMINIUM SMELTER

As registered interested and affected parties (I&APs) on the database for the Coega Aluminium Smelter project this letter provides you with the following:

- A summary of recent developments related to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted in 2002 for the proposed Coega Aluminium Smelter
- Notification of the public comment period for the Technology Review for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Coega Aluminium Smelter (3 June – 4 July 2005)
- Invite to a Public Meeting for the Technology Review for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Coega Aluminium Smelter (9 June 2005).

Background information and update on the EIA for the proposed smelter

Record of Decision
The Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on 20 December 2002, authorizing the proposed development. No appeals were received within the 45 day appeal period. Confirmation has subsequently been received from the provincial Department of Economic Affairs Environment and Tourism (DEAE&T) that the ROD has been upheld. The ROD is available at the CSIR’s website for the EIA at [http://smelter.csir.co.za](http://smelter.csir.co.za).

Environmental Management Programme
Early in 2003, CSIR prepared an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) Framework report for the construction phase of the smelter. This report provides the framework for ensuring that the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Report and the conditions of the Record of Decision are implemented. The draft report was presented to representatives of local, provincial and national government in Port Elizabeth. It has subsequently been approved by DEAE&T and the final version is available on the CSIR’s website for the EIA at [http://smelter.csir.co.za](http://smelter.csir.co.za). The implementation of the Construction EMP Framework will be a dynamic and ongoing process. It is therefore expected that certain components of the report will be updated periodically. It must be noted that the EMP Framework will need to be updated with the results of recent studies.

Change from Pechiney to Alcan
Late in 2003 the entire Pechiney group was acquired by Alcan, which resulted in a review by Alcan of Pechiney’s existing and proposed projects, including the Coega Aluminium Smelter. Alcan has since made a decision to proceed with a detailed feasibility study for the proposed Coega Aluminium Smelter project, but using AP35 technology rather than AP50 technology. This feasibility study is due to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2005. The AP35 smelting technology is similar to that used at the Hillside aluminium smelter at Richards Bay and the Mozal aluminium smelter at Maputo, and differs from the AP50 technology in that the smelter would operate at 350 000 amperes rather than at 500 000 amperes of electricity. Alcan is considering constructing the smelter in the
Coega Industrial Development Zone using two AP35 potlines rather than the initially proposed single AP50 potline. The output of the AP35 smelter (between 660 000 and 720 000 tonnes per annum) would exceed that of the proposed AP50 smelter (approximately 485 000 tonnes per annum). The decision by Alcan to change to AP35 smelting technology requires that a technology review be undertaken, that will supplement the EIA conducted in 2002.

**Preparation of a Technology Review**

Discussions between Alcan and DEAE&T have established that Alcan is not expected to go through another full EIA process and obtain a new Record of Decision, given that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and ROD have already been prepared for the AP50 smelter on the same site. Instead, Alcan can use the condition in the current ROD, which states that the proponent must notify DEAE&T of any changes in technology and gain approval for these. The overall approach to the Technology Review is therefore to identify the changes in technology and design from the AP50 to the AP35 proposal, determine where these might alter the predicted significance of the environmental impacts, and review the mitigation measures accordingly. This analysis is to be presented to DEAE&T in the form of a Technology Review report. The draft report will be provided to DEAE&T and other authorities for their comment and input; and released for a 30 day public review period, during which time a public meeting will be held. Thereafter, depending on the findings of the Technology Review, DEAE&T may issue an amended ROD for the AP35 technology, based on the current ROD. It should also be noted that the duration of authorization provided in the 2002 ROD has been extended to December 2005.

**Notification of Technology Review Comment Period**

The draft Technology Review Report is available for public comment from the 3 June – 4 July 2005. The report can be viewed at the following locations or accessed on the following website:  
http://smelter.csir.co.za

**Nelson Mandela Metropole Libraries**: Govan Mbeki, New Brighton, Motherwell, Zwide, Newton Park, Walmer, Chatty, West End, Despatch, Uitenhage, KwaNobuhle, Gelvandale, KwaMagxaki, KwaZakhele, Linton Grange, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Summerstrand as well as Technicon Campus and Vista University

**Cape Town**: UCT Government Publications Department

Comments on the draft Technology Review can be provided via the Public Meeting (see details below) or via feedback to Sandy Wren or Wandile Junundu at the above contact details. The closing date for comments is 4 July 2005.

**Public Meeting – 9 June 2005**

As part of the public review process a Public Meeting will be held to which all I&APs are invited. The Public Meeting will include a presentation of the findings of the Technology Review and will provide I&APs the opportunity to raise questions and make comments. Present at the Public Meeting will be a representative from Alcan (project proponent) as well as the CSIR who are responsible for preparing the Technology Review.

Date: 9 June 2005  
Time: 17h30 – 19h00  
Venue: PE City Hall, Main Reception Hall

Should you require any additional information on the project please don't hesitate to contact Sandy Wren or Wandile Junundu at the above contact details. We look forward to your attendance at the Meeting and receiving your comments on the Draft Report.
Yours sincerely

SANDY WREN  WANDILE JUNUNDU