

**Usiminas has decided to interrupt temporarily operations in Blast Furnace #1, in Ipatinga**

USINAS SIDERÚRGICAS DE MINAS GERAIS S/A - USIMINAS

CNPJ/MF Corporate Taxpayers'

ID 60,894,730/0001-05

NIRE 313,000,1360-0

Publicly Traded Company

ANNOUNCEMENT

Usinas Siderúrgicas de Minas Gerais S/A – USIMINAS (USIM3, USIM5 e USIM6) informs that in order to adapt its production to the current steel market demand, it has decided to interrupt temporarily operations in Blast Furnace #1 at the Intendente Camara Mill, in Ipatinga (MG), from December 12th 2008 until the end of January 2009.

Pig iron production will be reduced by approximately 90 thousand tons, or around 1% of the Company's annual capacity. Such adjustment will allow Usiminas to reduce its costs, while preserving its strength during the current market scenario.

Belo Horizonte, December 12, 2008

Paulo Penido Pinto Marques

Finance, Investor Relations and Information Technology Vice-President