

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

**USINAS SIDERÚRGICAS DE MINAS GERAIS S/A - USIMINAS**

**CNPJ/MF 60.894.730/0001-05**

**NIRE 313.000.1360-0**

**Public Company**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Usinas Siderúrgicas de Minas Gerais S/A - USIMINAS (Bovespa:USIM3, USIM5, USIM6; OTC: USNZY; Latibex: XUSI, XUSIO) 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 José Bonifácio de Andrada Mill, in Cubatão (SP), for approximately 90 days from March 9th 2009.

Pig iron production will be reduced by approximately 270 thousand tons, or around 6% 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, March 04, 2009

Paulo Penido Pinto Marques

Finance, Investor Relations and Information Technology Vice-President