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## Approval for Los Pelambres Environmental Impact Assessment

LONDON: 29 March 2004 – Antofagasta plc announces that the Regional Commission of the Environment (COREMA) for Chile's Fourth Region has approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) submitted by Los Pelambres in May 2003.

This approval allows Los Pelambres to exploit up to 2.1 billion tonnes of its known ore reserves, including permission to construct the proposed El Mauro tailings dam. The approval also enables Los Pelambres to consider expansion alternatives at the Concentrator Plant including an increase in ore processing capacity up to 175,000 tonnes per day (tpd) compared with the current 120,000 tpd level.

Antofagasta is a Chilean-based copper mining group listed in the United Kingdom.

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