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**Minera Los Pelambres - El Mauro tailings dam project**

London, 24 August 2007 - Antofagasta plc announces that earlier today, its subsidiary Minera Los Pelambres was notified by the Civil Court of Los Vilos of a new claim made by the same individuals involved in previous litigation against the Mauro tailings dam. The claim was lodged with the Los Vilos Court for the first time earlier this week and Minera Los Pelambres was neither notified of nor represented in the hearing. Minera Los Pelambres has also been notified by that Court of an order to suspend work on one part of the construction of the Mauro tailings dam.

The effect of the order is to suspend only those works which directly affect the Pupio stream in the vicinity of the tailings dam. These works involve less than 270 persons of approximately 4,000 persons working on the Mauro tailings dam project, which is approximately 95 per cent complete.

Minera Los Pelambres believes that it has obtained all the necessary approvals and permits for the construction of the Mauro tailings dam, and has had its right to continue with construction confirmed by the courts on six previous occasions. It intends to seek the reversal of this order as soon as possible. As the works affected only form a part of the overall project, Minera Los Pelambres does not believe this action will affect the schedule for the completion of the project by the end of this year.

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