

Three alternatives are currently being considered: the first to increase production capacity to 1,500 tpd; the second to increase it to 2,000 tpd, and the third is to increase it to 2,500 tpd, which is equal to duplicating current capacity.

Lead production in 1990 was 1,120 tons compared to 1,241 tons in 1989. The imminent depletion of El Toqui's San Antonio mine will mean the end of this production which is decreasing year by year.

II.6.2 Empresa Minera de Aysén - CORFO.

Empresa Minera de Aysén is owned by CORFO and is in the process of being privatized. It's less significant assets were sold at the beginning of 1992; in 1993, its more critical holdings and equipment will be put on sale.

The company exploited the Rosillo mine and the concentrating plant in Puerto Cristal in the XI Region. Zinc production has declined to around 2,000 tpy. Lead production also dropped and resulted in the closing of the Silva mine in December 1988.

II.6.3 Compañía Minera de Catemu - Privately Owned.

This company belongs to local investors and exploits the Veta Grande mine and the Santa Rosa concentrating plant in the V Region.

The company produces around 9,000 tons of zinc annually.

II.6.4 Compañía Chilena del Zinc - Privately Owned.

Compañía Chilena del Zinc is planning to build a zinc refining pilot plant in Puerto Sánchez in the XI Region. Investment will be somewhat less than US\$ 1 million, and production will be 360 tons of metallic zinc per year. If it is successful, it will be able to expand production. The company is supplied by Empresa Minera de Aysén, which are very limited reserves according to the explorations that have been done.