

Another aluminum processing plant, with an investment of US\$1.5 billion is under study by Endesa, the largest power generating company in Chile. It is similar in its characteristics and location to Alumisa.

18.6 Potential for Canadian Exports in the Chilean Mining Sector

Canada already has a significant presence in Chile's mining sector through the ownership of significant stakes in several large projects. Some of the most important mining companies in Canada, such as Placer Dome, Río Algom, Falconbridge, Cominco and Lac Minerals are heavily involved in the exploitation of copper, gold and silver. The largest projects include Quebrada Blanca, Cerro Colorado, El Abra, La Coipa and El Indio. This presence has been growing fastly in recent years, and now Canada is one of the main foreign investors in Chile.

Besides from direct participation in the ownership of companies, the main opportunities for Canadian companies in the Chilean mining sector are in the provision of equipment for new projects and for the development of existing projects. An estimate of the demand for equipment for the next few years gives an approximate figure of around US\$500 million per year for 1994-96 (see Table 4 in the Statistical Appendix).

The largest kinds of equipment imported are heavy trucks, power shovels, drilling equipment, loaders, crushers and motorized vehicles, reflecting the importance of copper mining in this sector (see Table 5 in the Statistical Appendix). However, the strong