



Essar Steel Algoma Inc.
105 West Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Canada P6A 7B4

T +1 - 705 - 945 2351
F +1 - 705 - 945 2203
www.algoma.com

News Release
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ESSAR Steel Algoma Starts Up No. 6 Blast Furnace

SAULT STE. MARIE – Commensurate with the receipt of the Certificate of Approval from the Ministry of the Environment, Essar Steel Algoma plans to initiate the start up of No. 6 Blast Furnace this evening. The process is expected to last approximately two to three days, beginning with 'wind on' and culminating in a series of preliminary casts until the necessary iron quality is achieved. It is anticipated the start up procedure will result in a visible emission from the top of the stack and low level noise for a short period of time as we blow in the furnace.

No. 6 Blast Furnace is a vital component of Essar Steel Algoma's planned expansion to 4 million saleable tons. As part of Essar's ongoing commitment to the environment and the community, Essar Steel is investing nearly \$90 million in air emission controls over an 18 month period, ensuring an overall net reduction in air emissions.

The Company intends to host a Community Open House in the coming weeks to publicly share the terms and conditions of the Certificate of Approval and outline progress to date on air quality initiatives currently underway at Essar Steel Algoma.

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A member of the Essar Group, Essar Steel Algoma Inc. is based in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. As a fully integrated steel producer, Algoma's revenues are derived primarily from the manufacture and sale of rolled steel products including hot and cold rolled sheet and plate.

Company Contact:
Brenda Stenta
Manager, Corporate Communications
Phone: +1.705.945.2209
Email: bstenta@algoma.com