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Companhia Vale do Rio Doce  
Form 6-K  
December 30, 2008

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**United States  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 6-K  
Report of Foreign Private Issuer  
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the month of  
December 2008  
Companhia Vale do Rio Doce  
Avenida Graça Aranha, No. 26  
20030-900 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil  
(Address of principal executive office)**

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

(Check One) Form 20-F  Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1))

(Check One) Yes  No

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7))

(Check One) Yes  No

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

(Check One) Yes  No

(If  Yes  is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b). 82-\_\_.)

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**Vale approves merger of Mineração Onça Puma**

Rio de Janeiro, December 29, 2008 Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (Vale) announces that, the proposal of merger of Vale's wholly-owned subsidiary, Mineração Onça Puma S.A. into Vale, was approved today by Vale's shareholders gathered in Extraordinary Shareholder Meeting.

With the merger, Vale unconditionally assumes all properties, rights and obligations of Mineração Onça Puma, under the terms of current legislation. At the same time, it abides by the undertakings with respect to the management of the nickel business that were assumed vis-à-vis the Canadian Government pursuant to the Investment Canada Act upon the occasion of the acquisition of Inco Ltd.

**For further information, please contact:**

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This press release may include declarations that present Vale's expectations in relation to future events or results. All declarations, when based upon future expectations and not on historical facts involve various risks and uncertainties. Vale cannot guarantee that such declarations will come to be correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors related to the following: (a) countries where we operate, mainly Brazil and Canada; (b) global economy; (c) capital markets; (d) iron ore and nickel businesses and their dependence upon the global steel industry, which is cyclical by nature; (e) high degree of global competition in the markets which Vale operates. To obtain further information on factors that may give origin to results different from those forecasted by Vale, please consult the reports filed with the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM), the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including the most recent Annual Report Vale Form 20F and 6K forms.

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**Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

COMPANHIA VALE DO RIO DOCE  
(Registrant)

Date: December 29, 2008

By: /s/ Roberto Castello Branco  
Roberto Castello Branco  
Director of Investor Relations