



EXTERNAL NEWS RELEASE

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**TECK COMINCO ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH CVRD
TO TEST CESL TECHNOLOGY**

Vancouver, B.C. – Cominco Engineering Services Ltd. (“CESL”) has entered into an agreement with Comphania Vale do Rio Doce (“CVRD”) to operate the CESL Process pilot plant utilizing ore from the CVRD Alemao and Salobo properties. The pilot plant program will operate through February of 2004. In addition, CVRD has commissioned an independent engineering company to produce a feasibility study for a 10,000 tonne per year prototype CESL facility. Construction of the prototype plant is expected to be completed in mid 2006. The prototype plant is expected to be a precursor to full scale commercial operations utilizing the CESL process.

“The agreement with CVRD is an important milestone in the development and commercialization of the CESL process,” said David Thompson, CEO of Teck Cominco Limited. “The prototype plant will provide an opportunity to scale up the CESL Process to larger volumes and demonstrate the commercial viability of this important new technology.”

The CESL Process is a low capital and low operating cost, environmentally friendly, pressure leach copper extraction technology which provides very high overall recovery of copper.

CESL is a mining research and development group and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Teck Cominco Limited. Teck Cominco Limited is a diversified mining corporation, headquartered in Vancouver, Canada with assets totaling approximately \$5 billion. Shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbols TEK.A and TEK.B. The Company is a world leader in the production of zinc and metallurgical coal and its diversified operations also produce significant quantities of copper and gold. Further information can be found at www.teckcominco.com and for CESL at www.cesl.com

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