



Hindalco to Face Threat of Baphimali Mine Closing



Hindalco Industries Ltd., India's second-largest producer of aluminum, may have to halt mining at its biggest bauxite reserve after part of the land was recently deemed forest, requiring a new permit, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The company needs to obtain approvals by 9 March and is running out of time, one of the people said. Hindalco has already filed

the papers and the eastern state of Odisha, where the mine is located, needs to decide whether to extend the deadline, another person said. When Hindalco won the lease more than a decade ago, the area wasn't marked as forest land, both said, asking not to be identified as they aren't authorized to speak on the subject.

Failure to get the license in time may either force Hindalco to cut aluminum production or import ore, which may further dent earnings at a time prices of the lightweight metal are at a six-year low. The company, controlled by billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla, is grappling with debt that has more than doubled to about \$11 billion in the last four years as cheaper imports from China weigh on profit.

South Africa Aluminium Federation Begg NERSA to Review Cost Recovery Strategy



Power utility Eskom will know in a matter of weeks whether its attempt to recover R22.8 billion for cost recovery and revenue adjustments is successful.

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa's (NERSA) hearings on Eskom's regulatory clearing account (RCA) ended recently and the regulator will make a decision on February 25.

The RCA application is a cost recovery mechanism that seeks to reconcile the tariffs Nersa awarded Eskom on the basis of a range of forecasts and what materialized, as reflected in the utility's financial statements.

The mining sector, which is a major consumer of power, told the hearings that the application was not affordable in the current economic climate.

Major companies and business organizations begged Nersa to reject the application, citing the negative effect a further price hike will have on jobs, labour costs, reduced capital investment and productivity.

The Aluminium Federation of SA executive director Mark Krieg said electricity tariffs had increased by 250 per cent since 2006/07. The price escalation of above inflation and load shedding has negatively affected the aluminium industry.

"This affects electricity price predictability and certainty. This is required to encourage investment in a period of low economic growth. The aluminium industry is energy intensive. It relies on a reliable affordable electricity supply," Krieg said.

PPG Launches Innovative Internal Powder Liner for Aluminium Aerosol Cans



PPG Industries' packaging coatings business has announced that it will feature HOBA™ PURAIR™ coating, an innovative Bisphenol A non-intent powder liner for the internal protection of aluminium aerosol cans, during the Aerosol and Dispensing Forum in Paris, February 3-4. The product from PPG's brand HOBA Purair contains no solvent. It helps canmakers meet environmental and sustainable technology goals such as reducing volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and providing high utilization and recycling capability.

Powder coatings are just emerging into limited use for monobloc aerosol packaging, according to Robyn McMillan, PPG global segment manager for monobloc aerosol and tube coatings.

"Powder coatings can play a key role in

aerosol packaging going forward by satisfying regulatory and environmental concerns, especially regarding the use of solvents," she said. "With the innovative HOBA Purair internal powder liner, PPG offers a high-performance sustainable solution that helps maximize product utilization while minimizing environmental impact."

McMillan added that the PPG liner, HOBA Purair is made with selected raw materials to meet regulations as well as canmakers' and brand owners' requirements.

PPG Packaging Coatings developed the HOBA Purair powder liner in collaboration with PPG's industrial coatings business – an established leader in powder coatings for automotive, transportation, appliance, office furniture, building and architectural applications. The product offers good smoothness at low thicknesses as well as excellent coating flexibility, and it can be used in most existing application processes.

The HOBA Purair internal powder liner is the latest addition to PPG's complete range of new-generation monobloc aerosol and tube coatings designed to meet regulatory requirements while offering high performance and a wide range of filling compatibility. The line also includes HOBA™ MAX, HOBA™ VCL™ and