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Companhia Vale do Rio Doce
Form 6-K
January 23, 2009

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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
January 2009
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 invests in natural gas exploration

Rio de Janeiro, January 22, 2009 Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (Vale) informs that it is negotiating with Woodside Energia Investimentos em Exploração de Petróleo Ltda (Woodside) the acquisition of half of its stake in the consortium BM-S-48 and BM-S-55, formed to explore natural gas in the Santos Basin, Brazil.

The consortium, currently composed by Repsol YPF (40%), Petrobras (35%) and Woodside (25%), includes the Panoramix exploration well, where evidences of hydrocarbon were found. The acquisition is pending on the approval of the Brazilian regulatory agency for the oil and gas industry, Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás Natural e Biocombustíveis (ANP).

The exploration of energy sources, including natural gas, is part of Vale's strategy of diversification and optimization of our energy matrix, aiming to reduce costs and mitigate risks.

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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: January 22, 2009

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