

VALLEY OF THE RIO DOCE CO

Form 6-K

September 22, 2004

Table of Contents

**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

September 2004

Valley of the Rio Doce Company

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Avenida Graça Aranha, No. 26
20005-900 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-)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Press Release
Signatures

Table of Contents

Press Release

**CVRD and Shougang sign a contract for the supply
of 11.3 million tons of iron ore**

Rio de Janeiro, September 14, 2004 Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), the largest iron ore producer in the world, signed a long term contract with Shougang Group (Shougang), one of the largest steelmakers in China, to supply 11.3 million tons of iron ore from 2004 to 2012. The contract was signed in Rio de Janeiro, by Roger Agnelli, CVRD CEO, and Zhu Jimin, Chairman of the Shougang Board of Directors, who came to Brazil especially for this purpose.

CVRD already had an iron ore supply contract with Shougang to provide 4.4 million tons from 2004 to 2008. With this additional contract, CVRD and Shougang establish a commitment of 15.7 million tons of iron ore between 2004 and 2012.

Long term contracts signed between CVRD and its clients support the Company's investment efforts in iron ore capacity expansion, and at the same time, eliminate risks of raw material shortage for the steelmaking industry.

For further information, please contact:

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This press release may contain statements that express management's expectations about future events or results rather than historical facts. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements, and CVRD cannot give assurance that such statements will prove correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors: relating to the Brazilian economy and securities markets, which exhibit volatility and can be adversely affected by developments in other countries; relating to the iron ore business and its dependence on the global steel industry, which is cyclical in nature; and relating to the highly competitive industries in which CVRD operates. For additional information on factors that could cause CVRD's actual results to differ from expectations reflected in forward-looking statements, please see CVRD's reports filed with the Brazilian Comissão de Valores Mobiliários and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

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: September 22, 2004

By: /s/ Fabio de Oliveira Barbosa

Fabio de Oliveira Barbosa
Chief Financial Officer