TROUBLED WATERS

VALE (VALE)
CEO: Murillo Ferreira
HEADQUARTERS: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2009 NET INCOME: US$12.5 billion
2009 SALES: US$412.8 billion
2009 ASSETS: US$108.7 billion
MARKET CAPITALIZATION: US$102.8 billion
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 68,187

Vale is proposing dumping into Sandy Pond at its Long Harbour nickel processing operations in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Vale currently dumps tailings from its Copper Cliffs mine in Ontario into the remainder of Meatbird Lake, which once teemed with trout, and into what used to be lakes at its Thompson mine in Manitoba. The company is involved in the Goro nickel project, which had proposed ocean dumping in New Caledonia before switching to a conventional tailings dam, and dumped tailings into Lake Batata at its Mineração Rio do Norte (MRN) mine in Brazil.

XSTRATA (LONDON: XTA)
CEO: Michael (Mick) Davis
HEADQUARTERS: Zug, Switzerland
2010 NET INCOME: US$4.9 billion
2010 SALES: US$30.5 billion
2010 ASSETS: US$69.7 billion
MARKET CAPITALIZATION: US$48.5 billion
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 38,561

Xstrata dumps nickel and copper tailings from the Strathcona mill into a portion of Moose Lake in Ontario. The company has also dumped zinc and copper tailings from its Matagami mill into what used to be Lake Watson in Quebec.