

NATIONAL STEEL CO  
Form 6-K  
August 18, 2006

---

**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 August, 2006**

**Commission File Number 1-14732**

---

**COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**National Steel Company**  
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

**Av. Brigadeiro Faria Lima 3400, 20º andar**  
**São Paulo, SP, Brazil**  
**04538-132**  
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports  
under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F  Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby  
furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes  No

---

**NOTICE TO THE MARKET**  
**COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL**

Rua São José 20, Grupo 1602, parte  
Rio de Janeiro/RJ  
Corporate Taxpayers ID (CNPJ) 33.042.730/0001 -04

**Investment Grade in Foreign Currency**  
**Environmental License of the Cement Project**

1) CSN announces that as FITCH ratings reviewed the *seto país* rating methodology, the Company was rated **Investment Grade in Foreign Currency**. This achievement, concerning the IDR (Issuer Default Rating), increased from **Non Investment Grade (BB+) to Investment Grade (BBB)**.

2) CSN announces that the State Environmental Control Commission (CECA) and the State Environmental Engineering Foundation (FEEMA) of the State of Rio de Janeiro, granted **CSN Cimentos S.A.**, the **Installation Permit**, to develop a cement manufacturing unit, which will produce 3 million tons per year, based on iron and steel aggregate for blast furnace, in the district of Volta Redonda, in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Concerning this important license, **Marcos Paim**, CSN's Officer, in charge of the project execution said: "The Cement Project is stick to its schedule, with the approval of the 3Mtpy and the beginning of the construction works in Volta Redonda, as of August 07, 2006. We stick to our goal in order to start operating in the last quarter of 2007 .

**Rio de Janeiro, August 17, 2006**

Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional  
Benjamin Steinbruch  
CEO and Investor Relations Executive Officer

---

**SIGNATURE**

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.

Date: August 17, 2006

**COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL**

By:           /s/ Benjamin Steinbruch          

**Benjamin Steinbruch  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Acting Chief Financial  
Officer**

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. These statements are statements that are not historical facts, and are based on management's current view and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results. The words "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "expects", "plans" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the declaration or payment of dividends, the implementation of principal operating and financing strategies and capital expenditure plans, the direction of future operations and the factors or trends affecting financial condition, liquidity or results of operations are examples of forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the expected events, trends or results will actually occur. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors, including general economic and market conditions, industry conditions, and operating factors. Any changes in such assumptions or factors could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.

---