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Companhia Vale do Rio Doce  
Form 6-K  
December 21, 2007

**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  
December 2007  
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 signs contract to operate FNS**

Rio de Janeiro, December 21, 2007 Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (Vale) hereby informs that it signed today the contract to commercially exploit for 30 years the 720 km stretch of the North-South railroad (FNS), running from Açailândia, the Brazilian state of Maranhão, to Palmas, the Brazilian state of Tocantins.

The first installment of R\$ 739 million, paid today, equals to 50% of the total amount for the sub-concession. The second installment, equal to 25% of the amount, is scheduled to be paid in December 2008, while the third and last installment shall be paid at the time of the completion of the last part of the railroad. Additionally, Vale will invest R\$ 66 million in the railroad infrastructure (traffic signs, repair shops, filling stations, etc...) until 2010.

Vale participation in this project is a clear demonstration of its commitment to invest not only on its own infrastructure but also in the country's infrastructure as well, in line with the main logistics businesses of Vale, which encompass the transportation and handling of general cargo for clients.

**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 Vale cannot give assurance that such statements will prove correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors: relating to the Brazilian and Canadian economy and securities markets, which exhibit volatility and can be adversely affected by developments in other countries; relating to the iron ore and nickel business and its dependence on the global steel industry, which is cyclical in nature; and relating to the highly competitive industries in which Vale operates. For additional information on factors that could cause Vale's actual results to differ from expectations reflected in forward-looking statements, please see Vale's reports filed with the Brazilian Comissão de Valores Mobiliários and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

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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: December 21, 2007

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