

PRESS RELEASE

Phoenix, AZ, June 8, 2006- Southern Copper Corporation (SCC) (NYSE and LSE: PCU), a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico, announced today that the Smelter Modernization Project in Ilo, Peru, the last step of its Environmental Compliance and Management Program (PAMA) commitments, agreed with the Peruvian government in 1997, is on schedule with a global progress of 85%, complying when finished, 100% with the PAMA.

Investments in the Smelter project exceed \$400 million and have generated more than 3,500 new jobs, being 50% of them workers from the town of Ilo, where the smelter is located.

Total investment for all steps of the PAMA was around \$600 million, expected to be completed by December, 2006.

Southern Copper Corporation, as part of Grupo Mexico, will continue to invest this year to complete the \$436 million budget for different projects, and will continue to invest in the following years to start and complete the Los Chancas and Tia Maria projects in Peru, which represent an investment of around \$800 million to \$1 billion. Additional copper production would be approximately 120 to 210 thousand tons per year, starting 2009 and 2016, respectively.

In order to consolidate our reserves and to find new deposits, we will invest more than \$33 million this year in explorations, in the three countries where we are established: Peru, Mexico and Chile. This will take us in the years to come to a strong increase in our investments, in order to continue being one of the most important mining companies worldwide.

Southern Copper Corporation is one of the largest integrated copper producers worldwide and holds the largest copper reserves of any listed company in the world. We are a NYSE and Lima Stock Exchange (LSE) listed company of which 75.1% ownership belongs to Grupo Mexico, a Mexican company listed on the Mexican stock exchange. The balance 24.9% ownership forms part of the world's investment community. We operate mining units, metallurgical facilities and exploration in Peru, Mexico and Chile.