



For Immediate Release SQM clarifies information regarding CCHEN

Santiago, Chile. September 15, 2016.- Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (“**SQM**”) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) responds to an article that was published in the Chilean newspaper *La Segunda* on September 15, 2016. The article discusses an alleged investigation that was initiated by the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission (*Comisión Chilena de Energía Nuclear*) (“**CCHEN**”) regarding SQM’s lithium exports.

Considering this, SQM outlines the following points:

1. According to a resolution adopted by CCHEN in the year 1995, SQM Salar S.A. (the “Company”) is authorized to produce and sell lithium according to the following conditions (the “Conditions”):
 - (a) A 30-year period starting with the first lithium sale;
 - (b) The total amount of lithium metal equivalent produced and sold should not exceed 180,100 MT; and
 - (c) Lithium cannot be transferred by the Company and cannot be used by anyone else for a final use related to nuclear fusion.
2. Since the resolution was adopted, CCHEN has been constantly checking the Company’s compliance with the conditions outlined above.
3. The Company has submitted all of the required information requested by to prove its compliance with the Conditions.
4. The Company has been in constant communication with CCHEN to respond to all of the requirements that could be required, and is in the process of officially responding to CCHEN following the article published in *La Segunda*.

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About SQM

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium, potassium-related fertilizers and industrial chemicals. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be a leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 110 countries. SQM's development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the Company's position in each of its businesses.

The leadership strategy is based on the Company's competitive advantages and on the sustainable growth of the different markets in which it participates. SQM's main competitive advantages in its different businesses include:

- Low production costs based on vast and high quality natural resources;
- Know-how and its own technological developments in its various production processes;
- Logistics infrastructure and high production levels that allow SQM to have low distribution costs;
- High market share in all its core products;
- International sales network with offices in 20 countries and sales in over 110 countries;
- Synergies from the production of multiple products that are obtained from the same two natural resources;
- Continuous new product development according to the specific needs of its different customers;
- Conservative and solid financial position.

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "plan," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "strategy," "should," "will" and similar references to future periods. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements we make concerning the Company's business outlook, future economic performance, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, or other financial items, anticipated cost synergies and product or service line growth.

Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are estimates that reflect the best judgment of SQM management based on currently available information. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that are outside of our control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in such statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. Readers are referred to the documents filed by SQM with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically the most recent annual report on Form 20-F, which identifies important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to SQM on the date hereof and SQM assumes no obligation to update such statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.