

## **SAMARCO INTENSIFIES DREDGING AT RISOLETA NEVES HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT'S LAKE (CANDONGA)**

Samarco intensified, last Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the dredging of the first 400 meters of Risoleta Neves Hydroelectric Power Plant's lake (Candongga). Two dredgers are being used. Together they remove about 5000 cubic meters of waste from the lake per day.

The dredgers' displacement process began on the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month, with the partial closure of the plant's gates aiming at the formation of more water depth. This was necessary because the small volume of rainfall at the river head and the small existing water depth at the site made it impossible to position the dredges in the appropriate location.

The floodgates were closed for about 54 hours, which raised the lake's level by approximately 3 meters. Thus, the dredger could reach 400m away from the embankment, the ideal position to start the dredging process. After this stage, pipes linked the dredger to areas notified by the competent bodies for the deposition of the material to be removed from the reservoir.

After the completion of the dredging process, these areas will be recovered and revegetated with native plant species.

During this first stage, 1.3 million/m<sup>3</sup> of waste will be dredged by June 2017.

"We are committed to finding the best solution to the problems caused by the accident at Fundão. We understand that the dredging at Candonga will be a milestone, not only in relation to the resumption of the power plant's operations, but also regarding the riverside communities downstream", said Rodrigo Abreu, coordinator of the dredging activities.



Dragagem Usina Hidrelétrica Risoleta Neves (Leo Drumond/Nitro)

### **Environmental Recovery Projects**

The dredging of Candonga's lake is part of the environmental recovery projects that are being undertaken by Samarco in the areas impacted by the Fundão dam collapse.

It is part of a set of 41 programs (93% of them are already underway), gathered in two main work fronts, one socioeconomic and the other socio-environmental.

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