

Samarco's layoff will be extended

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Company activities have been paralyzed for almost two years. Today, October 18, Samarco and the unions Metabase (Mariana/MG) and Sindimetal (ES) agreed to extend the suspension of work contracts (layoff) for an additional five months (November 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018). The company's activities have been paralyzed for almost two years after the Fundão Dam break.

In the event that proposal is approved by worker assemblies, employees continuing with the layoff will have their current rights guaranteed and will receive a salary equivalent to their net monthly income. The current period of the layoff began on June 1 of this year.

After freezing its activities, the company has resorted to various legal mechanisms, such as paid leave, collective vacations and the suspension of employment contracts. Today, the company has about 1,800 employees of its own, of which roughly 800 currently have suspended contracts.

Samarco needs to obtain two environmental licenses in order to return to operations. The company has already filed for the Corrective Operational Licensing (LOC) of the Germano Complex, as well as for a waste disposal license for the Alegria Sul pit with the State Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development of Minas Gerais (Semad). The environmental licensing processes are in progress and there is no scheduled date to resume operations.

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