INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY OF MIR

Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE - ISAM/PR/SG/14 - For immediate release

Secretary-General Suspends Operations at PSSR Block C

At the seat of the United Mirians, Day 41 after Hurricane Yolanda

The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority of Mir has today ordered Patna Surat Sea Resources (PSSR) to suspend lifting and all discharges at PSSR Block C without delay.

The order was issued under Regulation 19(3) of the DEEP Regulations, the day after the Secretary-General received laboratory results from the Cornuchuan Plains Agricultural University. The results report fine particles consistent with polymetallic nodule material in shellfish and sediment from Po-Kaya, where shellfish have been dying.

PSSR must also inspect the riser, the return line and all other equipment of its mining system by remotely operated vehicle, and may not resume activities until the Secretary-General or the Council so decides. The members of the Council, the sponsoring States and the States likely to be affected have been notified.

The incident reported by PSSR after Hurricane Yolanda was reported and closed in accordance with the regulations.

“When the evidence reached us, we acted within a day,” said Rowan Mamani, Secretary-General of the Authority. “The Authority will keep the public informed as the inspection proceeds.”