

## SQM FILES FORM 12B-25 EXTENSION NOTICE WITH THE SEC

**Santiago, Chile. April 30, 2015.-** Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) announced that it has filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) a Form 12b-25 extension notice relating to its Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

The Company has reported to the SEC that it is unable to file its Form 20-F by today pending the outcome of matters subject to the internal investigation that the Company has previously announced relating to payments by the Company of invoices for services that have not been properly supported and related matters. The Company will file the Form 20-F, including its audited financial statements in conformity with SEC rules, as soon as practicable. However, the Company is presently uncertain as to the date by which it will be able to file the completed Form 20-F.

Under such circumstances, the Company, in compliance with New York Stock Exchange guidelines, will be communicating to the market as much information as is practicable pending completion of the Form 20-F. The Company expects by the end of this week to furnish to the SEC a Form 6-K (filing the same document with the Chilean Superintendence of Securities and Insurance (*Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros* or "SVS")) containing certain information relating to the Company's business and operations that would be set forth in a Form 20-F. The Company has previously filed with the SVS and furnished to the SEC the 2014 Chilean annual report that includes statutory consolidated financial statements for 2014, prepared in accordance with the instructions and standards related to the preparation and presentation of financial information established by the SVS. However, these statutory consolidated financial statements are considered by the SEC to be unaudited financial statements as they were prepared in accordance with Chilean audit standards and SVS instructions. They were also prepared prior to the termination of the employment contract of SQM's former CEO following his previously reported refusal to cooperate with SQM's internal investigation.

As previously reported, the Company has identified to the SII approximately US\$11 million in payments made by the Company without sufficient supporting tax documentation, between the tax years 2009 and 2014. This amount is expected to increase by no more than US\$2 million related to certain payments by the Company's subsidiaries that may not qualify for tax deductible expenses, in the same period.

The ad hoc committee of the board and its US and Chilean legal and other advisers are working methodically to review the situation. There are processes that the ad hoc committee and the Company, its board and management need to follow. In the meantime, the Company is communicating with regulators in Chile and in the US, and will seek to communicate as much relevant information as is practicable to the market about its business, operations and matters related to the subject matter of the internal investigation.

SQM

Los Militares 4290 Piso 6, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile Tel: (56 2) 2425 2485 Fax: (56 2) 2425 2493 www.sqm.com



## **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.

For further information, contact:

Gerardo Illanes 56-2-24252022 / <u>gerardo.illanes@sqm.com</u> Kelly O'Brien. 56-2-24252074 / <u>kelly.obrien@sqm.com</u> Carolyn McKenzie 56-2-24252280 / <u>carolyn.mckenzie@sqm.com</u>

For media inquiries, contact:

María José Velozo / maria.jose.velozo@sqm.com

Alvaro Cifuentes / Alvaro.cifuentes@sqm.com

Tamara Rebolledo / Tamara.rebolledo@sqm.com (Northern Region)

## 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.