



8-9 октября 2008
АВИАЦИОННЫЙ ФОРУМ
КРЫЛЬЯ РОССИИ

Бурный рост
авиаперевозок
в России:
причины
и последствия

Business: RenCap Cuts RTS '08 Target to 2,350

Renaissance Capital on Monday slashed its year-end forecast for the benchmark RTS Index from 3,000 to 2,350 and increased its equity risk premium for the country from 4 percent to 5.5 percent in a sign of continued investor jitters.

[Enlarge your business opportunities this summer - place a job ad at Job Opportunities pages of The Moscow Times until 31 August and get 10 vacancies for free on www.careercenter.ru web site!](#)

The Moscow Times • com

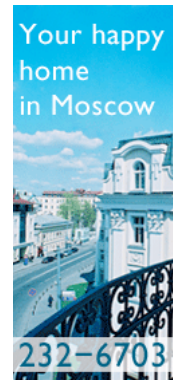
Wednesday, August 27, 2008
Updated at 27 August 2008 0:34 Moscow Time.

The Moscow Times » Issue 3969 » Business

BOOKMARK -A +A Print Email

Currency Exchange

USD/RUR - 23.5
EUR/RUR - 37.1



Features

- Front page
- News
- Business
- Opinion
- Arts & Ideas
- Stock Market
- City Wise ▼
- Crime Watch
- Current issue

Services

- Community
- Moscow Guide
- Travel Guide
- Appointments
- Job & Career ▼
- Real Estate
- Classifieds
- Conferences
- B for B
- MT News
- Photobook
- The St.Petersburg Times

Tools

- Archive Search
- PDF Edition ▼
- PDA Edition
- RSS Feed
- Mobile TMT
- Subscriptions ▼
- Advertising ▼
- Reprints ▼
- Contact us

Norilsk Cited in Pollution Inquiry

19 August 2008

By Nadia Popova / Staff Writer

An official who granted Norilsk Nickel a permit to emit polluting gases is being investigated over possible abuse of office and causing the state 1 billion rubles (\$40 million) in damages, the Investigative Committee of the Prosecutor's General's Office said Monday.

News of the investigation comes just days after United Company RusAl, which holds a stake of 25 percent plus two shares in Norilsk, strongly criticized the miner over its environmental record and said it would fund a feasibility study to clean up Norilsk Nickel's smelters.

A deputy department head of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry's technical watchdog "illegally granted Norilsk Nickel permits on the pollution of the atmosphere," Investigative Committee spokesman Vladimir Markin said by telephone. He added that a criminal investigation had been opened against the official, whose name he did not disclose.

"The official granted the permits to Norilsk Nickel in January, while he was acting head of department during his boss' vacation," Markin said. "He actually had no authority to grant those permits. As a result the miner paid only about 200,000 rubles for excessive pollution, while it had to pay about five times more."

"We only got the information from our colleagues in the Krasnoyarsk region today," Markin said, adding, "We are now investigating the motives of the official."

Norilsk spokeswoman Maria Uvarova expressed surprise at the investigation Monday. "Norilsk Nickel works in accordance with the law and gets all its permits legally," she said by telephone.

No one at the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry's watchdog, the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological and Atomic Inspection, answered calls on Monday.

In its criticism of Norilsk, RusAl said in an Aug. 12 open letter that "neither we nor the state environmental authorities see any result" in the company's efforts to improve its environmental performance.

RusAl said the information in its letter had been obtained from the government, Greenpeace and the Blacksmith Institute, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that put the city of Norilsk on a list of the world's 10 most polluted places.

Norilsk's newly appointed CEO, Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, rejected the criticism Friday, accusing RusAl of "knowingly or unknowingly using information that does not correspond to reality in an attempt to portray the situation as catastrophic."

Billionaire Oleg Deripaska, the majority owner of RusAl, has been at loggerheads with Norilsk chairman Vladimir Potanin, whose Interros holds a 29 percent stake in Norilsk, over the miner's merger plans and performance.

Nikolai Sosnovsky, a metals and mining analyst at UralSib, did not rule out a connection between RusAl's environmental criticisms and the case against the watchdog's official.

"There have been precedents in Russia when competitors or business partners tried to pressure each other through regulatory bodies, including environmental ones," Sosnovsky said.

Norilsk's shares on MICEX fell 1.5 percent Monday to 4,909.30 rubles, as nickel prices on the London Metal Exchange fell 2.4 percent to \$18,250 per ton, Bloomberg reported.

River Cruising in Russia

Sites on the Svir, Volga & Dnieper. Sign up for Special E-mail Offers.

Nutritionists

Visiting Nurse Service Of New York More Technologies And Specialties

Ads by Google

Weather

Moscow
Wednesday day



Rain 13° C

Winds: NW at 4.5 m/s
Pressure: 743 mb
Humidity: 80%

[more](#)



19 August 2008

[Download PDF](#)

Most Popular Stories.

1. Georgian Crisis Is a Trap for U.S. Leadership
2. Medvedev Backs Independence Bids



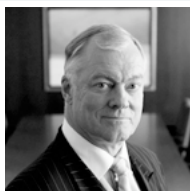

**КАК ДОБИТЬСЯ НАИБОЛЬШЕЙ ОТДАЧИ
ОТ ВАШИХ ИНВЕСТИЦИЙ**

MT news

The Moscow Times guide to the most delectable places in Moscow on www.rb.ru

The Moscow Times is introducing the website www.rb.ru, a place for advice and exchange of impressions about restaurants and bars in Moscow.

Testimonials



"It makes us proud to be the owner of Independent Media, the publisher of The Moscow Times. The paper plays a significant role in helping to create an international and dynamic Moscow. Professional media is an important element of social and economic progress, thus giving us an opportunity to take part in the rapid and unique development of Moscow."

-Jaakko Rauramo,
Chairman of the Board
SanomaWSOY
Corporation

- 3. Conflict Exposes Obsolete Hardware
- 4. Russia Expands Into Georgia Proper
- 5. Georgia Caused This War

Archive

August 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Columnists

- Don't Trust Politicians With War
By Alexander Golts
- Rethinking the War
By Alexei Pankin
- The Age of Solzhenitsyn
By Alexei Bayer
- How Pique and Spite Can Destroy Relations
By Vladimir Frolov
- When Leaving Is Not Quite Leaving
By Michele A. Berdy
- Russia's Upside in the Georgia Conflict
By Boris Kagarlitsky
- Georgian Crisis Is a Trap for U.S. Leadership
By Fyodor Lukyanov
- Looking Into Saakashvili's Caucasus Soul
By Yulia Latynina
- A Tried and True Diversion Tactic
By Konstantin Sonin
- Still Going for Their Gold
By Mark H. Teeter
- Fighting Russian Tanks With Patriotic Defiance
By Matthew Collin
- Medvedev's Toughest Presidential Test
By Georgy Bovt
- The Great Writer Who Buried Communism
By Yevgeny Kiselyov
- The Same Old Presidential Reserve
By Nikolai Petrov
- WTO Can Place Russia on the Right Track
By Anders Aslund
- The Missiles of July
By Richard Lourie
- Immunity From the Oil Curse
By Martin Gilman



© Copyright 1992-2008. The Moscow Times. All rights reserved.