



Division Forêts et Produits forestiers

**PRESS RELEASE – For immediate distribution**

## **KRUGER RECOGNIZED AGAIN FOR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **North Shore and Mauricie Forest Management**

**Montréal (Québec), December 13, 2005** - Kruger Inc. has just passed the independent audit monitoring process of its sustainable forest management systems as recognized and certified in accordance with the CSA-Z809-02 standard for all of its forest activities in the Mauricie and on the North Shore. Also, its ISO 14,001 (2004) environmental management systems have again passed scrutiny by independent auditors during their annual monitoring process. A testament to rigorous, transparent and high quality practices, these certifications once again illustrate Kruger's desire to pursue its activities in a context of sustainable development.

“Kruger Inc. has been totally committed, for more than five years, to globally recognized certification measures. The results of these audits are very meaningful and demonstrate once again our leadership and our commitment to environmental matters,” said Mr. Michel Lessard, Vice President, Forest Operations. “This is the result of team work of which we are extremely proud. I would also like to highlight the continuous commitment of the workers and the members of the Standing Advisory Committee, both in the Mauricie and on the North Shore,” Mr. Lessard added.

The audit teams emphasized many positive aspects of the management systems in place, both in the Mauricie and on the North Shore. Special mention was made of the Standing Advisory Committee representation, operational expertise and the commitment of forest workers in applying and developing the management systems, together with an ecosystemic approach used in recovering fire-damaged wood from Île René-Levasseur.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) according to the Canadian standard CSA-Z809-02 is a voluntary model of sustainable development, specific to the Canadian forest sector, which is based on dialogue with organizations representative of users of the territory and its resources. Standing Advisory Committees were established in the Mauricie in 1999, and on the North Shore in 2000, to involve local communities in identifying sustainable forest management goals and guidelines, as well as in the regular planning of forest activities. This system therefore takes into account regional values, concerns and characteristics when drawing up forest management plans, and also allows specific intervention strategies to be developed that correspond to the needs of forest users.

In the Mauricie and on the North Shore, Kruger Inc.'s sustainable forest management plans meet 6 globally recognized criteria: the conservation of biodiversity, maintaining and improving forest ecosystem conditions and productivity, conservation of soil and water resources, the contribution of forest ecosystems to world ecological cycles, multiple benefits to society, and acceptance of social responsibility for sustainable development.

ISO 14,001 certification is a voluntary measure that permits identification and control of significant environmental impacts from forest management activities. Under this certification, Kruger Inc. is committed to the continuous improvement of its forest practices in matters of environmental protection.

Kruger is a major pulp and paper company engaged in the manufacturing and sale of newsprint, specialty grades, lightweight coated paper, directory paper, tissue, recycled linerboard, corrugated containers, lumber and other wood products. In March 2004, Kruger Inc. established a new business unit, the Kruger Energy Group, to achieve its growth objectives in the energy sector. Scott Paper Limited, a member of the Kruger Company, is the leading tissue manufacturer in Canada. Scott Paper serves the Canadian consumer market with well-known brands including Cashmere from Cottonelle, Purex, SpongeTowels (formerly ScotTowels), Scotties, White Swan, Capri and Viva, as well as away from home products for industrial and commercial use across Canada. The Kruger company has operations in Québec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador, the United States, United Kingdom and employs over 10,500 people.

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