

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Opta Minerals Inc. Appoints Austin Beutel to the Board of Directors**

**Waterdown, Ontario, July 13, 2006** – Opta Minerals Inc. (Opta) (**TSX: OPM**) (**TSX: OPM.WT**) is pleased to announce the appointment of Austin Beutel to the Company's Board of Directors. The appointment of Mr. Beutel brings the total number of directors to 8.

Austin C. Beutel is Chairman of Oakwest Corporation Limited, a private family holding Company. He retired in 1994 as chairman of Beutel Goodman and Company, Ltd., an investment counseling firm, which he co-founded in 1967. Currently Mr. Beutel is the non-executive Chairman of the Equitable Group Inc. (Equitable Trust Company) and a director of Accord Financial Corp., Aecon Group Inc., Astral Media Inc., as well as other private companies. He is active in several charitable organizations and was Chairman of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre 1992-95. Mr. Beutel has a B.Comm. (McGill) and an M.B.A. (Harvard), and is also a Chartered Financial Analyst. He resides in Toronto.

David Kruse, CEO of Opta Minerals Inc. said "I am very pleased to have an executive of Mr. Beutel's caliber join our Board. Austin's experience will provide our Board with further tactical and strategic expertise necessary to grow the business".

#### **About Opta Minerals Inc.**

Opta Minerals Inc. is a vertically integrated producer, manufacturer, distributor and recycler of silica-free loose abrasives, industrial minerals, specialty sands and related products for use primarily in the foundry, steel, marine/bridge cleaning, roofing shingle and municipal water filtration industries. With its head office in Waterdown, Ontario, the Company also has production and distribution facilities in Ontario, Quebec, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New York and one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements included in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements". These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to references to business strategies, competitive strengths, goals, capital expenditure plans, business and operational growth plans and references to the future growth of the business. These forward looking statements are based on certain assumptions and analyses made by the Company in light of its experience and its interpretation of current conditions, historical trends and expected future developments as well as other factors that the Company believes are appropriate in the circumstance. However, whether actual results and developments will agree with expectations and predications of the Company is subject to many risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to; general economic, business or market risk conditions; competitive actions by other companies; changes in laws or regulations or policies of local governments, provinces and states as well as the governments of United States and Canada, many of which are beyond the control of the Company. Consequently all forward-looking statements made herein are qualified by these cautionary statements and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by the Company will be realized.

For further information, please contact:

**Opta Minerals Inc.**  
**David Kruse, President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary**  
**Tel: 905-689-6661 ext. 401**  
**[Investor-relations@optaminerals.com](mailto:investor-relations@optaminerals.com)**  
**Website: [www.optaminerals.com](http://www.optaminerals.com)**