

Opta Minerals Inc. Acquires Assets of Hillcrest Industries Inc.

WATERDOWN, ONTARIO, Tuesday, May 10, 2005 – Opta Minerals Inc. (TSX: OPM, OPM.WT) today announced that it has reached an agreement to acquire the business and working capital assets of the abrasive production division of Hillcrest Industries Inc. Hillcrest manufactures coal based abrasive products in Attica, New York. This agreement also includes a long-term supply contract of high quality coal slag produced from a nearby coal fired generating station.

“The acquisition of the Hillcrest operations will further contribute to the Company’s stated objective to become one of the dominant North American producers and suppliers of silica-free loose abrasives, roof shingle materials and industrial minerals” said David Kruse, President and Chief Executive Officer. “There is strong demand for high quality abrasive and roofing shingle materials in Western New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio State. Having a facility such as this within the market will enable us to expand into new territories and continue to provide customers in both Canada and the U.S. with a full range of abrasives, roof shingle materials and industrial minerals”.

The transaction is an asset purchase and includes the purchase of inventory and the current abrasive business of Hillcrest Industries. Total cost of assets acquired is \$550,000 and no liabilities will be assumed in the acquisition. In conjunction with the asset purchase, Opta concurrently entered into a long term lease with Hillcrest for warehouse facilities located in Attica and entered into a services agreement with Hillcrest for production of material.

About Opta Minerals

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 and municipal water filtration industries. The Company has experienced solid growth since July 1995, through a combination of internal growth and successfully integrated strategic acquisitions to become one of the dominant regional suppliers of silica-free loose abrasives in a number of select markets on the east coast of North America.

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