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Listing: TSX

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**OPTA MINERALS REPORTS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR
DECEMBER 31, 2004**

Waterdown, Ontario (March 31, 2005) – Opta Minerals Inc. today reported financial results for the fiscal 2004 year. These results are available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com and are being released in compliance with applicable securities laws, which require Opta Minerals to report complete financial statements and comparative figures that also reflect the operations of the wholly owned subsidiaries of SunOpta that were collectively known as the Opta Minerals Group prior to the completion of the initial public offering of Opta Minerals on February 17, 2005.

The combined financial results include the accounts of Opta Minerals, a division of SunOpta Inc., Opta Minerals Inc., Opta Minerals (USA) Inc., Virginia Materials Inc., International Materials & Supplies Inc., Temisca Inc., 9017-0382 Quebec Inc. (Distribution A&L) and 1108176 Ontario Limited, all of which were up to February 17, 2005 divisions or wholly owned subsidiaries of SunOpta and were collectively known as the Opta Minerals Group, a reporting segment of SunOpta. The combined financial statements present the historic combined financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the Opta Minerals as if it had operated as a stand-alone entity subject to SunOpta's control.

About the Company

Opta Minerals 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.

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