

Century Aluminum and Ravenswood Retirees Reach Agreement

Company Completes Critical First Step in Smelter Restart

MONTEREY, CA -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 02/29/12 -- Century Aluminum Company (NASDAQ: CENX) announced today that an agreement in principle has been reached regarding healthcare benefits with the retirees of Century Aluminum of West Virginia, Inc.'s Ravenswood, West Virginia smelter. The agreement remains subject to ratification by the retirees.

"We have been working diligently with the retirees and the union for a considerable period of time and are pleased to have reached an agreement," commented Century president and chief executive officer Michael Bless. "We would like to express our gratitude to Senator Rockefeller, Senator Manchin, Governor Tomblin and their staffs for their constant support during this process.

"We have worked long and hard with Karen Gorrell, the retiree committee and the Steelworkers and sincerely thank them in their efforts toward our common goal.

"Mayor Harbert, the citizens of Ravenswood and their elected representatives have also worked hard to help get us to this day. While encouraged by our progress and the cooperation and support we have received from all parties, we recognize that this is a first step and a great deal of work lies ahead. As we have previously stated, a plant restart is dependent on an enabling energy contract, a competitive labor agreement and a reasonable expectation that aluminum prices are sufficient to provide for profitable operations."

Century Aluminum Company owns primary aluminum capacity in the United States and Iceland. Century's corporate offices are located in Monterey, Calif. More information can be found at www.centuryaluminum.com.

Cautionary Statement This press release may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of U.S. federal securities laws. The company has based its forward-looking statements on current expectations and projections about the future; however, these statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, any of which could cause the company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed in its forward-looking statements, including whether or not the tentative agreement with the Ravenswood retirees will be finalized or ratified. More information about these risks, uncertainties and assumptions can be found in the risk factors and forward-looking statements cautionary language contained in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and in other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to revise any forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date such forward-looking statements are made.

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