

CHEMICAL & MINING CO OF CHILE INC

Form 6-K

September 21, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 UNDER THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of September, 2016.

Commission File Number 33-65728

CHEMICAL AND MINING COMPANY OF CHILE INC.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

El Trovador 4285, Santiago, Chile (562) 2425-2000

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F:  Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

**SQM**

Los Militares 4290 Piso 6,

Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Tel: (56 2) 2425 2485

Fax: (56 2) 2425 2493

[www.sqm.com](http://www.sqm.com)

**Santiago, Chile. September 21, 2016.- Santiago, Chile. September 21, 2016.-** Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (“**SQM**”) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) announces that it will increase its lithium hydroxide capacity in Chile from 6,000 metric tons per year to 13,500 metric tons per year. At its current facility near Antofagasta, SQM plans to increase efficiencies bringing the current plant capacity from 6,000 metric tons per year to 6,500 metric tons per year. Additionally, SQM will construct a new plant with a capacity of 7,000 metric tons per year. The estimated investment related to this new capacity is expected to be around US\$30 million, and should be completed by the end of next year.

Patricio de Solminihac, Chief Executive Officer of SQM, commented, “In line with our strategy and given market demand growth, we feel it is imperative to expand our current operations in Chile and abroad to maintain our position as a leading producer of lithium. Lithium hydroxide is increasingly becoming the preferred product used for lithium battery production related to electric vehicles, and we expect lithium hydroxide demand growth to outpace lithium carbonate demand growth in the upcoming years.”

SQM estimated that in 2015, global demand for lithium reached just over 150K metric tons. We expect global demand in 2016 to exceed demand seen in 2015 by 10-15%. In 2015, SQM sold 38.7K metric tons of lithium and derivatives. During the first six months of 2016, SQM sold 23.0K metric tons of lithium and derivatives, and this business line accounted for 22% of the total revenues of the Company.

About SQM

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium, potassium-related fertilizers and industrial chemicals. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be a leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 110 countries. SQM's development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the Company's position in each of its businesses.

The leadership strategy is based on the Company's competitive advantages and on the sustainable growth of the different markets in which it participates. SQM's main competitive advantages in its different businesses include:

- Low production costs based on vast and high quality natural resources;
- Know-how and its own technological developments in its various production processes;
- Logistics infrastructure and high production levels that allow SQM to have low distribution costs;
- High market share in all its core products;
- International sales network with offices in 20 countries and sales in over 110 countries;
- Synergies from the production of multiple products that are obtained from the same two natural resources;
- Continuous new product development according to the specific needs of its different customers;
- Conservative and solid financial position.

For further information, contact:

Gerardo Illanes 56-2-24252022 / [gerardo.illanes@sqm.com](mailto:gerardo.illanes@sqm.com)

Kelly O'Brien 56-2-24252074 / [kelly.obrien@sqm.com](mailto:kelly.obrien@sqm.com)

For media inquiries, contact:

Carolina García Huidobro / [carolina.g.huidobro@sqm.com](mailto:carolina.g.huidobro@sqm.com)

Alvaro Cifuentes / [Alvaro.cifuentes@sqm.com](mailto:Alvaro.cifuentes@sqm.com)

Tamara Rebolledo / [Tamara.rebolledo@sqm.com](mailto:Tamara.rebolledo@sqm.com) (Northern Region)

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: “anticipate,” “plan,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “strategy,” “should,” “will” and similar references to future periods. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements we make concerning the Company’s business outlook, future economic performance, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, or other financial items, anticipated cost synergies and product or service line growth.

Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are estimates that reflect the best judgment of SQM management based on currently available information. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that are outside of our control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in such statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. Readers are referred to the documents filed by SQM with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically the most recent annual report on Form 20-F, which identifies important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to SQM on the date hereof and SQM assumes no obligation to update such statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CHEMICAL AND MINING COMPANY OF CHILE INC.

(Registrant)

Date: September 21, 2016

/s/ Ricardo Ramos

By: Ricardo Ramos

CFO & Vice-President of Development

**Persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained SEC 1815 (04-09) in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays currently valid OMB control number.**