

Information Summary for the Public

Host Country:	Guatemala
Name of Borrower:	Nuevos Almacenes S.A., (d/b/a "Cemaco")
U.S. Sponsor:	Ace Hardware Corporation
Project Description:	Expansion of a hardware, home goods and building materials sales operation.
Total Project Cost:	\$14,000,000
OPIC Guaranty Amount:	\$9,750,000
U.S. Economic Impact:	Because this project involves the provision of domestic retail services, with revenues realized exclusively in the host country, there is no potential for adverse effects on the U.S. economy or U.S. employment. The project will have a positive impact on the U.S. balance of payments over the first five years.
Developmental Effects:	This project will have a developmental impact on the host country. The project will create approximately 200 jobs over the first five years of operations and will provide training to management, professional/technical, and unskilled employees. The project will also promote economic development through local procurement and expansion activities in less developed areas of Guatemala. In addition, Cemaco has an Equal Employment Policy that forbids discrimination in hiring and the company provides employees with daily meals, transportation, housing assistance and maternity leave.
Environment:	<p>Retail outlets are classified as Category B under OPIC's environmental guidelines because they are likely to have environmental impacts that are site specific and readily mitigated. The major environmental issues associated with the construction and operation of a hardware store are assuring proper procedures are in place for disposal of effluents and solid waste and that appropriate measures are in place to assure worker health and safety.</p> <p>This facility should be able to meet all international guidelines and have minimal environmental impacts. Solid waste and effluents will be disposed of through municipal facilities, energy conservation measures are in place in the stores, and health and safety measures are in place both during construction and operation. To assure minimal environmental impacts from the construction and operation of the facility, the Borrower and its subcontractors will be required to comply with the 2007 International Finance Corporation's General Environmental and Health and Safety Guidelines (April 30, 2007) as well as all applicable environmental, health, occupational and safety requirements of Guatemala.</p>

Workers Rights:	OPIC's statutorily required standard worker rights language will be supplemented with provisions concerning the rights of association, organization and collective bargaining, age of workers, timely payment of wages, hours of work, and hazardous working conditions. Standard and supplemental contract language will be applied to all workers of the Project.
Human Rights:	A Human Rights clearance was provided on May 16, 2008.