

## **DATA COLLECTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COMMENCES AT COPPERWOOD PROJECT IN MICHIGAN**

TORONTO, ONTARIO, February 11, 2009 -- Orvana Minerals Corp. (TSX symbol: ORV) is pleased to announce that the initial phase of an environmental impact assessment of Orvana Resources US Corp.'s Copperwood Project has been completed.

The environmental impact assessment's initial phase of surface and subsurface water sampling is the first step in the two-year long process of developing a seasonal and long-term characterization of the site, as required by the State of Michigan as part of its mine permit application process. In completing this phase of the assessment, 20 holes for 4,065 feet (1,239 meters) were drilled, packer-tested, and completed as groundwater monitoring wells. These drill holes encountered between 70 and 108 feet (21 to 33 meters) of fine-grained, unconsolidated glacial sediments overlying the bedrock. Fourteen drill holes were completed in bedrock above the copper-bearing interval and six holes intersected the copper-bearing interval.

In addition, a meteorological and air-quality monitoring station was installed on the site and data collection commenced on December 18, 2008. Other studies required as part of the environmental impact assessment, including studies of the site's ecosystem, habitat features and terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, have also commenced. It is currently anticipated that the environmental impact assessment will be completed in early 2011.

Orvana President and Chief Executive Officer, Carlos Mirabal said, "Orvana's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship is demonstrated by the fact that the first significant expenditures at Copperwood by Orvana have been focused on the environment."

A scoping-level environmental geochemical examination has been completed on eight reject samples of mineralization, hanging wall, and footwall rocks from three historic drill holes within the land covered by the Copperwood mineral leases. Interpretation of the scoping-level geochemical test results by Geochimica, Inc. indicates that Copperwood rocks are very unlikely to generate acid drainage and, consequently, may be characterized as non-reactive under Michigan mining laws. In addition, the rock pile created by the extraction of copper-bearing rock from underground workings in the 1950s was recently trenched and sampled. This rock pile has been subjected to approximately 50 years of wet, oxidizing conditions. Based on visual observations, the rocks appear to be non-reactive. Orvana will undertake additional environmental geochemical studies to validate these test results and observations.

Theodore Bornhorst, Ph.D., P. Geo., a consultant to Orvana and a qualified person as defined in National Instrument 43-101 – *Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects*, has reviewed and approved the scientific and technical content of this news release.

### **About Orvana**

Orvana Minerals Corp. is a Canadian mining and exploration company based in Toronto, Canada, involved in the evaluation, development and mining of precious and base metal deposits in the Americas. The Company owns and operates the Don Mario Mine in eastern Bolivia. Orvana's long-term goal is to become a low cost, long-life, multi-mine gold and base metals producer in the Americas. Orvana's shares have been listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange since 1992 under the trading symbol ORV. Further information on Orvana may be found on the Company's website at [www.orvana.com](http://www.orvana.com) and on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

For further information, please contact Malcolm King at 416-369-1629.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements in this press release constitute forward-looking statements or forward-looking information within the meaning of applicable securities laws ("forward-looking statements"). These may include statements with respect to predictions, expectations, beliefs, plans, projections,

objectives, assumptions, potentials, future events or performance. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Orvana, or developments in Orvana's business or in its industry, to differ materially from the anticipated results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Orvana cautions you not to place undue reliance upon any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. Forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, all aspects of the possible development of the Copperwood Project and of its potential operation and production; mineral resource and mineral reserve estimates; the realization of mineral reserve estimates; estimates of future capital expenditures and timing of development and production and estimates of the outcome and timing of decisions with respect to whether and how to proceed with such development and production; and permitting time lines. A variety of inherent risks, uncertainties and factors, many of which are beyond the Company's control, affect the operations, performance and results of the Company and its business, and could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations of estimated or anticipated events or results. Some of these risks, uncertainties and factors include fluctuations in the price of copper; challenges to the Company's interests in its property and mineral rights; changes in the regulatory, political, social or economic environment in Michigan; risks generally associated with mineral exploration and development, including the Company's ability to develop the Copperwood Project; and the risks identified in Orvana's Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended September 30, 2008 under the heading "Risks and Uncertainties". This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect any of the Company's forward-looking statements and reference should also be made to the Company's Annual Information Form for a description of additional risk factors. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current plans, estimates, projections, beliefs and opinions, and except as required by law, the Company does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements should assumptions related to these plans, estimates, projections, beliefs and opinions change.