

# Miners *In Motion*

**PROVIDING FOR TODAY,  
PROTECTING FOR TOMORROW**

## Mine Site Spotlight: Jacobs Ranch Mine

The 2.1 mile-long overland conveyor (OLC) at Jacobs Ranch Mine is now running at full capacity of 6,000 tons per hour. The OLC is equivalent to over 37 football fields long. In March, the first coal was run across the system and, since then, production records have been set, and higher production is expected to continue.

"The OLC has already increased production and will help decrease tire costs and reduce overall operating costs," Dave Hamlin, project manager said. On July 20, 2008, the mine employees produced a record of over 173,000 tons in a 24-hour period. On July 16, a shift record was set at just over 85,000 tons. At the time of this writing, Jacobs Ranch is on pace to ship a record 4 million tons in July.

This entire project was accomplished with about 320,000 man-hours worked and zero lost time injuries. The project is expected to be completely demobilized (all contractors will be off site) by the end of July.

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# Letter from the President

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Colin Marshall - President and CEO



As you know our number one priority at Rio Tinto Energy America is safety. I was very pleased to see that MSHA reported that in 2007 RTEA had the lowest employee lost time injury rate of the twenty-five top US coal companies. Antelope received the 2007 Rio Tinto Chief Executive Safety award and has reached over two years without a lost time injury. These are great achievements. Well done.

It is up to each of us individually to take steps to avoid any injuries. This year we have had six lost time injuries and nine medical treatment cases. Four of these occurred in June; three of the four were to contractors. As usual, these incidents were preventable if the risks had been assessed and remediated before starting. It takes mere seconds for serious accidents to occur, so please stop, consider the task, and Take 5 before proceeding. That way you can be sure you go home unharmed to your family every day. Please always remember to always wear your seat belt whether at work or on personal time. There have been too many people hurt going to and from work this year.

Operations have been going well with good production at most mines considering the very wet May and early June. The massive floods in the Midwest impacted June shipments due to the disruptions to rail. The railways appear to be running much better in July. Demand for coal is still strong with exports of eastern coal continuing to grow creating

## Business Improvement

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### Does it need fixed? Reliability group helps make the tough calls at Jacobs Ranch Mine

Haul trucks, dozers, and other mining equipment are designed to last many years. Periodic maintenance keeps machines running, but eventually, large components like engines and wheel motors wear out and need to be replaced. So how would someone know when this needs to happen? Change a wheel motor too early and you waste useful component life; replace it too late and you run the risk of catastrophic failure. At Jacobs Ranch Mine, the reliability group helps the maintenance team make these tough calls. The Condition Based Maintenance (CBM) program implemented at Jacobs Ranch Mine is constructed of three primary roles.

1. A **Reliability Technician** (Matt Miller, Mickey Case and Jay Anderson) analyzes oil and filter results from the lab to determine if any action needs to be taken. Dirt, coolant, fuel ingestion or alarming levels of metals in the sample are all signs that the engine needs work. This constant attention to the results of oil and filter analysis ensures that the components have the optimum conditions to function and that if any issues do arise they can be addressed in a planned way.

increased interest in our coal. We have made some trial shipments from Spring Creek to Korea for test burns. It would appear the world is still short of coal.

The sales process is still progressing well, although I am sure you are wondering why it is taking so long. There has been a tremendous amount of work to do to prepare the information potential buyers need to make their bids. Thankfully, much of this is now complete. Interest in our business is very high as you would expect with the strong outlook for US coal demand. I am aware that considerable work has gone into tidying up the sites for the bidder visits which will take place over the summer. Thank you to all of you who have been involved.

In June our environmental and community work was recognized by the Wyoming Mining Association and other regulatory and industry entities through four diverse awards. Antelope Mine received the 2007 State of Wyoming Mine Safety Award for working more than 10,000 hours with no lost time injuries. Jacobs Ranch Mine was recognized through the Excellence in Surface Mining and Reclamation Award for the elk conservation easement. RTEA was also recognized overall through two community awards, one of which went to Heidi Lowe, Community Relations and Public Affairs Manager. The other community honor was the Good Neighbor Award for RTEA's community work. Congratulations to the award winners.

I hope you are enjoying time with family and friends this summer. My family had a fantastic 4th of July and enjoyed time out camping at Keyhole Lake. I've even had a chance to get out on my bikes. Have a safe summer and thanks for all of your hard work!



Pictured above, left to right: Jacobs Ranch Mine Reliability Group – Technicians Matt Miller, Mickey Case, Jay Anderson, and John Grant, Reliability Engineer.

2. John Grant is the **Reliability Engineer**. His duties involve reviewing the accumulated hours on all major components and compiles oil analysis results, filter analysis results, work order history, operator discrepancies, and feedback from

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# Jacobs Ranch Mine

## Improving operations: Jacobs Ranch Mine reduces the number of benches in Pit 1

In an effort to reduce shovel moves, improve road conditions and shovel productivity and increase operating room, Jacobs Ranch Mine made the decision in November 2007 to reduce the number of shovel benches in Pit 1 from four to three. In late 2007, Pit 1 was a four-bench pit, with four overburden shovels, one on each bench.

Jacobs Ranch Mine placed two shovels on bench three and collapsed it into bench four. In doing this, the poor road conditions were removed on bench 4 and operating space increased from 200 to 450 feet.

“Good road conditions improved tire life and haul truck efficiency. The additional bench width also allows us to perform more efficient drilling and blasting operations,” Production Manager Steve Gili said. “Safety has also improved by having more room to separate operations on the bench.”

Gili further explained that the increases in operating space allows production crews to work around any unplanned downtime and has drastically reduced the need to move shovels from one bench level to the other. This has shown a great increase in operating hours and has increased truck

utilization. The haul truck operators and dispatch can now move trucks from one shovel to the other, on the same bench, with fewer delays. “By combining benches 3 and 4, we increased the height of the bench above the point sheaves of the shovel and therefore we do require the need of a dozer to push down to the shovel,” Gili added.



Bench heights were designed so that they did not exceed point sheave height and therefore did not require a dozer to push to the shovel.

“Jacobs Ranch Mine has seen very positive results from this effort,” Gili said. “This is largely due to the operators in the pit making the new method work. We have received several ideas from operators on how to make the new method work more efficiently.” The two shovels on bench 3 are seeing an average increase in operating hours of 8 percent and a productivity increase of 5 percent. Additionally, we have seen an increase of 3 percent on haul truck utilization.

## Update from the Plant: It’s a Win-Win-Win situation

RTEA, working with General Electric and Crown Technologies, is installing a body spray treatment system that injects special antioxidants and dust surfactants into Jacobs Ranch Mine’s coal as it is conveyed into the silos. About a half gallon of water mixed with a small amount of chemical agent is injected into a coal transfer chute for each ton of coal produced. This results in strong dust control for the prep plant, the utility and the railroad. Initially, about an annualized 2 to 4 million tons of coal to specific power plants will be applied but with strong anticipation more requests will follow.

“Power plants are facing stricter dust control regulations just like the coal mines,” Plant Manager Steve Boothe said. “Also, some of the power plants store their coal for extended periods that at times gives them problems with spontaneous combustion.”

A 10-train test was conducted in December 2007 with outstanding results reported from both the power plant and the railroad involved. Preparation plant personnel experienced a substantial reduction in dust generated during the conveying and loading operations.

Boothe added, “We win with a cleaner running plant; the power plants win with better fire and dust control at their facilities; and the railroad wins with the elimination of dust fouling of their railroad track ballast.”

*Continued from the front page*

## Overland conveyor project



Pictured left, the OLC will help decrease tire and diesel costs, while at the same time move more coal, over longer distances, and in a timelier manner.

Front cover: Loadout operator Edie Morgan and Project Manager Dave Hamlin overlook the OLC from the top of the silos.

In order to ensure the OLC remains efficient and reliable, the Asset Management (AM) group will lead an effort to understand the critical areas of the system that could fail and develop plans to mitigate and reduce downtime. The AM group will assist the plant personnel in developing engineered maintenance tasks that ensure the right inspections, adjustments, and services are completed at the right times. RTEA will use a system called “Failure Modes, Effects, and Criticality Analysis” (FMECA) to identify what the failures can be, what causes them, and how each failure could affect the operation.

## Saying good-bye is very hard to do - by Patti Cost, Ph.D., On-Site Health Advocate

Hello- friends! I hope your summer has gone well and that you and your families had a safe Fourth of July. It's hard to believe that I have been working for all of you for two years and that my job here is slowly coming to a close! I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you all how much this job has meant to me and to say "aloha."

Two years ago, I left the college classroom to come and work here in a coal mine. I was ready for a change and a new challenge but I never realized how much this job would mean to me. My very first presentation was on breast and testicular cancer and I believed that if I could talk about that in front of coal miners, I could talk about anything. As the months progressed and the topics changed, I realized I was getting phone calls and having people drop in to talk about all sorts of personal issues. The health-related concerns people had at all sites far exceeded losing a little weight or joining a fitness center. People were talking to me about their lives, their families, and, in some cases, people were asking for my help in getting them back on track, helping them through some very difficult times. Most importantly, people were finding early skin cancer and having it treated, and there were some people who found breast and testicular lesions that they might not have found if they had not seen my pres-

entation. A lot of miners quit using tobacco (over 240 reported at least)! This list could go on but the bottom line is that I knew you were listening. I knew some of you were taking the information home to your families; I was making a difference in your health because you trusted me!

I have made the very difficult decision to return to academia and will begin teaching at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, in the fall. Leaving RTEA is very difficult because you folks have been like family to me. There are far too many of you to thank in this little article, but I will make my rounds and say my goodbyes. Meeting all of you has changed me as a person in ways you will never understand! I have been most impressed with the work ethics you possess and your commitment to your job and families. I will miss hopping on the bus and riding out to meet you in your haul trucks, I will miss seeing you at safety meetings and helping you solve your life issues. I sure will miss annual refresher! In Hawaii it is not good-bye, it is "aloha nui loa" - "until we meet again." Mahalo (thank you) to all of you, I will never forget you or this experience, may God bless you and keep you safe, always. Patti

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Business Improvement*

inspectors and mechanics on all components that are nearing or exceeding targeted lives. All information is summarized and reviewed with the maintenance planner and reliability technician. The team decides if any additional troubleshooting is necessary before determining the next review interval or planned replacement date for each component.



### Car seats available from RTEA Health and Safety Department

If you are welcoming a newborn to your family, Rio Tinto Energy America's Health and Safety Department would like to provide a new car seat for your child.

**To request a car seat or  
to inquire about eligibility,  
contact Tonya Simpson at  
(307) 687-6044  
or [Tonya.Simpson@riotinto.com](mailto:Tonya.Simpson@riotinto.com).**

3. An extremely important step for the team is to perform failure analysis on all major components that are removed – either due to the team's decision or because it failed unexpectedly. This aids in understanding the relationship between oil/filter analysis results and the worn components. This helps the team pinpoint the location of the system's weakness and what components have additional life.

Following these steps helps the Jacobs Ranch Mine maintenance team get the most out of our equipment while ensuring we avoid the cost and production loss from unscheduled equipment breakdown.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This publication includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this publication, including, without limitation, those regarding Rio Tinto's financial position, business strategy, plans and objectives of management for future operations (including development plans and objectives relating to Rio Tinto's products, production forecasts and mineral positions), are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Rio Tinto, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

# Health, Safety and Environment

## Thank you Mine Rescue Team members - for what you do

RTEA Mine Rescue Team members sacrifice a lot of effort and time, on and off the clock, to help their fellow employees. The willingness to help in a time of need means nothing without the willingness to prepare for the unexpected. RTEA Mine Rescue Team members contribute hours of their scheduled days off (while others spend precious time with family and friends) to train and complete certifications. The team members understand that this is a priority in order to perform their duties as emergency personnel.

"The most common accidents on a mine site are first aid injuries and equipment fires," Jimmy Jannetto, Jacobs Ranch Mine Health and Safety Manager said. "Once in a while you may see a spilled chemical (like fuel or radiator fluid); a person caught on a high structure without access; a confined space emergency where someone made a mistake and needs to be rescued; or a wild land fire that threatens the mine property or surrounding area."

RTEA mines have also responded to accidents off the mine site. Mutual aid agreements allow the teams to respond to accidents in the communities around the mine sites or be put on standby when ambulances from neighboring mines leave their site. Each mine has helped on occasions with bus accidents, crane collapses, motor vehicle accidents, tornados and wild land fires to name a few. On some occasions rescue team members train with the local fire and ambulance services in order to assist in mutual aid help for our surrounding communities. Many of the team members also volunteer in their respective communities as a firefighter or ambulance attendant.

In 2007 all five RTEA Mine Rescue Teams completed certification-based training, which included High Angle Rescue, Hazmat Operations or Awareness level, Emergency Medical Technician or First Responder, Confined Space Rescue, Entry Level Fire Fighter and Wild Land Fire. These certifications are the same requirements used for local fire department and ambulance services. By combining the training, each RTEA property saves 50 percent in the cost of outside instructors.

In closing, we at RTEA would like to thank each and every Mine Rescue Team member for their extra time and effort spent to help their fellow employees or community in time of need. If it wasn't for the extra hours spent in the classroom, out on the training field, or volunteering in your communities, we wouldn't have such a successful mine rescue team. Thank you to the families of the RTEA Mine Rescue Team members for letting your mom, dad, husband, wife, son or daughter take the extra time away from home each month to make RTEA a safer place to work.

### Antelope

John Bachus  
Rose Becker  
Casey Blosser  
Rob Brewer  
John Collins  
Bob Curtis  
Jeremiah Crom  
Larry Deines  
Rick Fieldcamp  
Jammey Gabert  
Haley Guerrero  
Danielle Hopkin  
Jim Hunt  
Daryl Huseby  
Tyler Huseby  
Christi Johnson  
David Karr  
John Kessler  
Niquole Leman  
Tony Litzinger  
Larry Mason  
John Milligan  
T.J. Ossa  
John Owens  
Erin Schwartzkopf  
Dave Shadden  
Wade Shadden  
Justin Shepherd  
Jeremy Smith  
Bret Thompson  
Steve Thomas  
Wade Utter  
Dale Woirhaye

### Colowyo

Steve Allen  
Zack Allen  
David Arnold  
Torie Barainca  
Angie Bau  
Charlie Campos  
Bud Chadwick  
Matt Crook  
Nick Davis  
Hal Dolan  
Dan Faucett  
Justin Forbes  
Tracey Garrett  
Larry Hitt  
Don Hobbs  
Jason Jones  
Don Kendall  
Robert Kincade  
Brent Malley  
Joel Martinez  
Irwin Martinez  
Roy Mason  
Jerry May  
Tony McDonald  
Press Merriam  
Randy Meyring  
Stan Moore  
Becca Myler  
Kiel Nielson

### Colowyo

Jeff Patterson  
Ray Price  
Joe Pickering  
Trent Randall  
Frank Sanborn  
Nick Scheller  
John Schneider  
Terry Sellers  
Kirk Smith  
Tanya Stoffle  
Stephen Swindler  
Charles Tipp  
Tory VanTassel

### Cordero Rojo

Jessica Aberle  
Ed Adams  
Jimmy Andrews  
Lonny Bossman  
Phil Brinkerhoff  
David Buffington  
Russell Cage  
Emmy Lou Cook  
Santos Cortez  
Dallis Cowen  
CJ Fisk  
Lyle Foster  
Jason Frederick  
Jeremy Geiser  
Alan Johnson  
Shawn Karol  
Bruce Lang  
Tyler McLaughlin  
Kevin Nemece  
Joleen Olson  
Ray Pierce  
Paul Prather  
Chris Rankin  
Jay Riley  
Kyle Rogers  
Kenny Romero  
Dan Simmons  
Scott Stone  
Blair Stugelmeyer  
Josh Tompkins  
Jerrold Walker  
Michelle Whitted  
James Wooldridge  
Anissa Zamzow

### Jacobs Ranch

Dustin Aldrich  
Jeff Bissey  
Brian Bowman  
Nick Brooks  
Mickey Case  
Luke Caster  
Steve Caster  
James Cody  
Vaughan Cookston  
Armando Cortez  
Serjio Cortez  
Jim Crawford  
Brandon Doell

### Jacobs Ranch

Jeff Fritz  
Gabe Gaston  
Michael Grace  
Paul Grummons  
Jim Hanson  
Jesse Hartle  
Clint Hoffman  
Luke Kelly  
Chris Kenney  
K.C. King  
Tom Lakenburger  
Sandra Lesewksi  
Randy Meek  
Lee Moore  
Shawn Nowak  
Jim Olsen  
Chris Patterson  
Todd Piscioti  
Kipp Rangel  
Tammy Regan  
Matthew Roda  
Dean Rose  
Lee Schroeder  
Jason Snyder  
Dustin Strong  
John Swenson  
Mike Szuma  
Bryan Taylor  
Brad Thomson  
Sam Weeden  
Jessie Wellman  
Troy Wright

### Spring Creek

Mike Atkinson  
Jason Aylesworth  
Frank Bear Cloud  
Charlie Carpenter  
Annette DeTavernier  
John DeTavernier  
E.B. DeWitt  
Bino Gaona  
Tim Garwood  
Jay Hasquet  
Cory Hill  
Doyle Hodgson  
Lenny Hotchkin  
Ben Johnson  
Justin Johnston  
Brent Loooper  
Steve Nelson  
Ryk Norskog  
Matt Ouellette  
Pat Patterson  
Ken Rosalez  
Trent Rosenlund  
Brandon Schaffer  
Tracey Smiley  
Cody Veal  
Allan Trumbull  
Ryan White  
Eli Whiteman

# Employee Matters

## RTEA achievements recognized multiple times at the 53rd Annual Wyoming Mining Association Convention



Pictured above, from left to right, Don Barthel, Antelope; Rose Becker, Antelope; Wade Shadden, Antelope; Greg Mager, Antelope; Joe Sorg, Antelope; Marion Loomis, WMA; Nick Brundin, Antelope; Dave Collins, Antelope; Jeff Tugman, Antelope; Dave Gauntner, Antelope; Terry Adcock, State Mine Inspector.

Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA) achievements were recognized by awards in a number of areas at the 53rd Annual Wyoming Mining Association Convention in June. Antelope Mine received the 2007 State of Wyoming Mine Safety Award (Safe Sam) from the State Mine Inspector and the Wyoming Mining Association (WMA) for working more than 10,000 hours with no lost time injuries. Antelope Mine also placed 3rd in the 2008 Safety Idea contest, for the idea of extinguishing coal smokers with an innovative combination of tools. Cordero Rojo Mine placed 2nd in the Safety Idea contest for dipper pin removal.

Jacobs Ranch Mine won the Excellence in Surface Mining and Reclamation Award in the National Category from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Land Quality Division, for the successful reclamation and cooperative approach involved in establishing a conservation easement benefiting the Rochelle Hills elk herd.



Above, Heidi Lowe, Community Relations and Public Affairs Manager received the Bob Peck Memorial Award for her community work on behalf of Rio Tinto Energy America.

RTEA also received the Good Neighbor Award from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Land Quality Division for successfully working with the surrounding land owners and the community while completing mining and reclamation.

Heidi Lowe, Community Relations and Public Affairs Manager received the WMA Bob Peck Memorial Award for her community services through RTEA community programs.

Congratulations to Antelope Mine, Cordero Rojo Mine, Jacobs Ranch Mine and the rest of RTEA for continued leading edge practices and performance throughout the spectrum of safety, environment and community involvement.

## Pounds of fun (and fish!) caught at the Antelope Mine's Annual Fishing Derby



Pictured left, Antelope Mine employee Jammey Gabert and sons, with first place envelope.



Pictured left, Jennifer McGahan's son with the winning 9.3 pound walleye.

Congratulations to the following winners of Antelope Mine's Annual Fishing Derby. This year was a great success with over 100 people participating each day.

### May 30

**1st place:** Jammey Gabert and kids with 17.1 pounds  
**2nd place:** Kay Ruckdaschel and husband with 16.1 pounds  
**3rd place:** Charles Hiser and family with 14.4 pounds  
**4th place:** Paul Herrera and family with 12.5 pounds  
**Biggest Fish Winner** was Terry May with a 6.9 pound walleye

### June 3

**1st place:** Travis Middleton with 16.7 pounds  
**2nd place:** Jon Miles from Spring Creek with 16.2 pounds  
**3rd place:** Jim Miller with 15.5 pounds  
**4th place:** Chad and Jo Shelver with 14.7 pounds  
**Biggest Fish Winner** was Jennifer McGahan and son with a 9.3 pound walleye

## Updates on RTEA and Climate Change

RTEA representatives participated in the June 27 session of the First Annual Sustainable Coal Strategies Symposium hosted by Sheridan College. RTEA Sustainable Development and External Relations General Manager Bob Green provided brief comments on sustainability aspects of coal, and Environmental Technology Manager Maha Mahasenan provided a feature presentation on the role of coal in a carbon constrained world.

RTEA continues to assist Wyoming in building upon the two statutes passed in the 2008 session, defining ownership of carbon sequestration pore space and the regulatory framework for sequestration. Government Affairs Manager

Jason Begger is working with interim legislative committees in considering additional legislation to address liability aspects and large scale implementation. Green represents RTEA on the Wyoming work group developing recommendations on liability and financial responsibility for carbon sequestration; the group began work on June 26.

RTEA has been contacted about representing the coal mining sector in a Montana clean energy summit. The event is at the conceptual stage, and Government Affairs Manager Todd O'Hair is working with summit organizers to establish a focused and practical approach.

## Career Fair held in Newcastle

Rio Tinto Energy America and Jacobs Ranch Mine hosted a career fair on July 8 in Newcastle. Interviews were conducted for Production haul truck operators, Maintenance mechanics, electricians, welders, oilers and utility workers, and Plant utility workers and operators. Resumes were also accepted for other RTEA sites.

Thank you to the following participants who assisted at the Newcastle Career Fair:

**Steve Gili**, Manager, Site Production  
**Mike Jarvis**, Manager, Site Maintenance  
**Steve Boothe**, Manager, Site Plant  
**Larry Jeffries**, Manager, Site Human Resources  
**Joey Vaccari**, Engineer III, Mechanical  
**Staci Hammond**, Engineer II, Environmental  
**Kipp Rambel**, Mechanic 5  
**Vance Bateman**, Temporary Lead, Plant  
**Dave Feist**, BIP Facilitator 5  
**Carolyn Schroeder**, HR Coordinator  
**Susan Barnes**, Recruiting

## New hires: June 1 - June 30

### Antelope Mine

Lowell Arnold  
Morgan Becker  
Jason Ferguson  
Eugene Hogan Jr.  
Joshua Johnson  
Crystal Steyh  
Richard Tabor  
John Williams

Scott Queen  
Rikki Roby  
Fred Septka  
Kathleen Shreeve  
Cannon Slawson

### Jacobs Ranch Mine

Nick Blumenthal  
Taren Branscom  
Mike Carlson  
Duane Filholm  
Eric Grenstiner  
Gary Hamm  
Dave Lems  
Caleb O'Brien  
Lee Schaub  
Kylee Sewell  
Bethany Weber

### Colowyo Mine

Cody Bebensee  
Chris Carroll  
Chad Eitel  
Rick Sloan  
Randy Sloan

### Cordero Rojo Mine

Dean Bittner  
Rachael Brindley  
Paul Bumsted  
Britt Fletcher  
Melvin Frasier  
Gerald Geis  
Shannon Hullinger  
Jeff Johnson  
Andrea Lawson  
Isaac Macias  
Jim Nonnast  
Debbie Orgaard

### RTEA

Scott Congdon, Jr.  
Sally Slocum

### Spring Creek Mine

Beverly Garwood  
Cory Rehder  
Todd Stewart  
Larry Workman

## Community Calendar

### August

#### Craig

July 26-August 10, Moffat County Fair

#### Gillette

July 28-August 4, Campbell County Fair, Cam-plex  
August 10-15, Pyrotechnics Guild International, Cam-plex

#### Meeker

August 15, Summer Entertainment Series, Courthouse

#### Sheridan

July 26-August 4, Sheridan County Fair, Sheridan County Fairgrounds  
August 23-24, Sheridan Elks Youth Rodeo, Sheridan County Fairgrounds

To include your RTEA event or RTEA community sponsored event in *Miners in Motion*, please contact Kay French at (307) 685-6103 or [Kay.French@riotinto.com](mailto:Kay.French@riotinto.com).



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*Miners in Motion* is printed monthly by Rio Tinto Energy America. Please send questions or comments to:  
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## Who's who at RTEA

### Meet Jason Begger, Manager, Wyoming Government Affairs

RTEA's stewardship approach is combined with many actions performed at our mine sites that can be traced to a law passed by our elected officials. For example, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) watches over our health and safety, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees our potential sage-grouse impacts and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) monitors dust levels. In fact, our activities are some of the most monitored and regulated in the entire country.

New laws and rules are constantly being proposed and part of my job as the government affairs manager for Wyoming is to monitor these proposals and provide information to government officials to ensure their actions do not negatively impact RTEA. The Wyoming Legislature meets annually in Cheyenne to discuss and act on legislative proposals. At the conclusion of the session, legislative committees meet several times during the year to discuss issues and develop bills for the next year's legislature.

In advance of the 2009 session, legislative committees are considering the following major issues of interest to RTEA: Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Workman's Compensation, Coal Taxation and Clean Coal Technology Incentives

Any of those issues can have drastic positive or negative implications for RTEA depending upon how the legislature chooses to act. That is why it is important for RTEA to work with our elected officials and stay involved in the political process.



Since 2008 is also an election year, and there will be many new faces in our government come January. It is also important to listen to the different candidates and support those who you feel best represent your interests. Remember, the people we elect are the ones who will be making the important decisions that impact your daily activities.

For information on RTEA's position on legislative issues or to find out how to obtain information on political candidates, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jason.begger@riotinto.com](mailto:jason.begger@riotinto.com).

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