

# Miners in Motion

**PROVIDING FOR TODAY,  
PROTECTING FOR TOMORROW**

## Mine Site Spotlight: Colowyo Mine

Colowyo Mine has once again experienced an exceptional winter with more visible accumulation of snow than recent winters. At times driving was slow and treacherous with slick roads, whiteout conditions, exceptional snow drifts, and the never-seen-before closure of area highways and roads. The countryside was busy with downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, sledging, snow machining, snow catting and even the common use of 4-wheel drive on highways.

When comparing this year to previous years, Colowyo Mine had an average of 2.3 additional inches of moisture. The snow fall in a large part of Northwest Colorado measured over 30 feet. Fortunately, with this moisture and snowfall it is anticipated to decrease the drought that has been experienced in the area during the last couple years.

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Photo by Michelle E. Cox, Black Diamond Photography, Meeker CO • [blackdiamondphotography@gmail.com](mailto:blackdiamondphotography@gmail.com)

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# Letter from the President

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Colin Marshall - President and CEO



I would like to thank you all for the performance of RTEA so far this year. We have had a very good first quarter, particularly considering the distraction of the divestment process. It is a good reflection of the quality of our operations and the professionalism of the entire workforce that things are running so well.

Year-to-date, we have four lost time injuries and six medical treatment cases, which is frustrating for everybody and painful for those injured. The most recent medical treatment cases included a dislocated finger at Jacobs Ranch Mine, a pinched finger requiring sutures at the Gillette rebuild shop and a puncture wound requiring sutures at Colowyo Mine. In March, a lost time injury involved a Jacobs Ranch Mine contractor who was carrying a hydraulic cylinder upstairs and slipped on ice, crushing the tip of his right middle finger between the cylinder and the floor grate, requiring surgical removal of the fingertip. As of the end of the April, the All Injury Frequency Rate has dropped to 0.94, compared to a target of 0.88, which is good to see.

Congratulations to Antelope Mine for winning the Wyoming Governor's Safety Award for outstanding achievements in workplace safety and health. It is well deserved. I also wanted to extend congratulations to Jacobs Ranch Mine for receiving the 2007 RTEA Environmental Excellence award for outstanding performance during the year in reclamation and meeting environmental targets. Whenever people visit our mine, they are always impressed with the quality of the reclamation at all the sites. I know it is an area of the mining process in which employees rightly take particular pride.

As I mentioned in my recent update letter to employees, the sale process is progressing well with lots of interest from potential buyers. We are working through the process as quickly as possible and anticipate that interested buyers will be scheduling site visits in the next few months. We will continue to keep you updated with the sales process. I appreciate everyone's continued focus on safety and our business as this process moves along.

In anticipation of the spring, I swapped my snowblower back to a mower just in time for the early May snowstorm. Luckily, I had not got round to taking the winter tires off my car. Wyoming weather certainly is variable as the bankers who are helping us from New York keep pointing out when they visit. When you are driving, please remember to watch for all the children out and about as the weather warms and the school year comes to an end.

## Business Improvement

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### Colowyo Mine works to remove waste and increase efficiencies

Winter has been a busy season for the employees at Colowyo Mine. Several teams in operations and maintenance are using the different tools from Lean Manufacturing in order to take a proactive approach to remove waste from their daily tasks. Lean Manufacturing helps companies improve material handling, inventory, quality, scheduling, personnel and customer satisfaction.

Darren Brown, Maintenance Welder at Colowyo Mine, utilized his skills of metal working to build a quick change-over device to reduce setup and takedown times when boring is needed anywhere on the mine. He designed and constructed a portable cabinet that will hold all of the tools needed to do a complete boring and welding job. "You can take this to a dragline or you can wheel it around the shop," Brown explained. "It has everything you need right here."

The maintenance team has also continued their effort of organizing the shop to be efficient to each task. By using the 5S (Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize and Sustain) tool of



Darren Brown stands next to his quick change over cabinet.

Lean Manufacturing, they are continuously looking at ways to improve the setup of the shop. The 5S implementation in the tire bay has been successfully sustained and continues to improve on a weekly basis. The team is currently focused on the preventative maintenance (PM) bay with

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# Colowyo Mine

## Colowyo Mine recycles more and throws away less

An opportunity for a Health Safety and Environmental (HSE) improvement for Colowyo Mine came in the form of a broken shredder. For the same cost of purchasing a new shredder, Colowyo Mine came up with a better solution that will be more beneficial for all aspects of the business, including mine personnel, paper security, labor expenses, and the solid waste disposal area of the mine.

In early spring, Colowyo Mine hired Colorado Documents Security to perform on-site document destruction (shredding) and paper collection. Everything that is collected is recycled. The Colorado Documents Security company is AAA certified from the National Association for Information Destruction.

“This new process will save in the amount of labor that is required to manage the daily trash load and decreases the trash volume that was being disposed of in the solid waste disposal area,” Tonia Folks, Associate Land Engineer said. “We hope to continue our commitment to recycling with other innovative ideas and methods.”

In the past, a few employees volunteered their personal time to deliver paper to recycling locations in Meeker and Craig on a biweekly basis. This process was not efficient, since employees were not recycling any of the confidential shredded documents, the accessibility of the recycling bins were not streamlined and a majority of employees were placing paper in their trash bins.

“This effort has served to continue to add focus to the paper recycling process with more communications, more recycle bin locations and the ability to recycle all paper,” Folks added.

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## Winter in Colorado...



Colowyo Mine vehicle parked next to a snow drift after one of Colorado's winter storms.

## Colowyo Mine addresses reclamation planning

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS) has required that Colowyo Mine rewrite the existing reclamation plan to address a historical lack of successful shrub establishment on reclaimed lands. As a result, Colowyo Mine joined in a collaborative effort with CDRMS to come up with a workable resolution that addresses their concerns regarding future reclamation, as well as Colowyo Mine's concerns regarding bond release on the existing reclamation. Colowyo Mine submitted a technical revision in mid-March that addresses both parties' concerns and through this collaborative process has helped to strengthen their working relationship with CDRMS.

The following factors were addressed:

- Focus has been placed upon the achievement of two specific rangeland post mine land uses including “livestock grazing” and “sage grouse brood-rearing habitat.”
- Colowyo Mine has identified and mitigated all the relevant physical, biological and environmental factors that led to poor shrub establishment in the past.
- Colowyo Mine also proposed a new set of bond release criteria for areas seeded during the 2008 reclamation season and beyond. This includes new targeted seed mixes and new seeding techniques and technologies that eliminate the use of species that have not performed over the past 30 years.
- Topsoil handling strategies will focus on variable topsoil depths and targeted plant community development.

Collectively, all of these improvements, in addition to markedly increased flexibility on the ground, should ensure better establishment of forbs and shrubs on Colowyo Mine reclamation. These changes should also ensure the likely Phase III release of reclaimed areas within the designed 10-year bond clock structure in the future. This revision is currently under review with CDRMS with final approval expected prior to the fall reclamation season.

## The ins and outs of carpal tunnel syndrome, By: Patti Cost, Ph.D., On-Site Health Advocate

### What is carpal tunnel syndrome?

Carpal tunnel syndrome occurs when the median nerve becomes pressed or squeezed at the wrist. This nerve controls sensations to the palm side of the thumb and fingers (not the little finger). The “carpal tunnel” is a narrow, rigid passageway of ligament and bones at the base of the hand.

### Causes

Carpal tunnel syndrome is often the result of a combination of factors, including trauma or injury to the wrist; a hyperactive pituitary gland; rheumatoid arthritis; work stress (repetitive use); a cyst in the tunnel; repeated use of tools that vibrate; and writer’s cramp. Women are three times more likely than men to develop carpal tunnel and so are people with diabetes or other metabolic disorders that directly affect the body’s nerves. For the most part, it usually occurs only in adults.

### Symptoms

Symptoms of carpal tunnel include pain and/or numbness or weakness in the hand and wrist. You might even experience burning, itching or tingling in the palm of the hand. The first symptoms usually appear at night and you might feel the need to “shake out” your wrist. Decreased strength and complete loss of the thumb muscle can occur if carpal tunnel is left untreated.

### Treatment

Early diagnosis is key! Treatment should begin as early as possible. Typically, initial treatment involves rest for two weeks and avoiding activities that worsen the symptoms. The wrist is typically immobilized and, if there is inflammation, ice packs should be applied. Exercises are also recommended. If the symptoms last six months or longer, surgery is recommended. Carpal tunnel release is the most common surgical procedure in the U.S.



### Prevention

On the job, workers can condition, perform stretching exercises, take frequent rest breaks, wear splints to keep wrists straight and use correct posture and wrist positioning. Workstations should also be redesigned to be ergonomically correct.

If you have any questions on carpal tunnel syndrome, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 685-4680.

## RTEA News

### 2008 RTEA Dependent Scholarship Program award winners

Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA) is pleased to announce that twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded to the dependents of RTEA employees. The recipients were selected from 60 applications throughout the RTEA locations.

A panel of faculty and officials at the Gillette College made the selection of the winning applications. The competition was very tough again this year, and we want to wish all of the applicants the best of success in their educational pursuits. A special congratulation goes out to the following winners of the 2008 scholarships:

Name	Parent	Name	Parent
Madison Aaberg	Butch Aaberg, Colowyo	Elias Heard	Mindy Watson, Denver
Cami Andrie	Paul Andrie, Gillette Office	Monica Irish	Jeff Irish, Antelope
Amanda Bachus	John Bachus, Antelope	Kellie Jorgensen	Alan Jorgensen, Colowyo
Lindsey Branscom	Clayton Branscom, Jacobs Ranch	Kirsten Jugler	Lyn Jugler, Antelope
Taren Branscom	Clayton Branscom, Jacobs Ranch	Kari Marx	Rodger Marx, Gillette Office
Kelly Curuchet	John Curuchet, Antelope	Phillip Mediate	Anthony Mediate, Spring Creek
Chad Eitel	Michael Eitel, Colowyo	Travis Miller	Thomas Miller, Antelope
Kelsy Elliott	Kim Elliott, Antelope	Shawna Praeuner	Kirk Praeuner, Jacobs Ranch
Chelsea Gardner	Alan Gardner, Antelope	Aaron Price	Steven Price, Jacobs Ranch
Jenna Gradisher	Mike Gradisher, Cordero Rojo	Meagan Rader	Ron Rader, Gillette Office
Whitney Griffin	Patrick Griffin, Cordero Rojo	Kathryn Stewart	Frank Stewart, Colowyo
Ryan Gunderson	Vicki Gunderson, Gillette Office	Jakob Thaler	Robert Thaler, Jacobs Ranch
		Michael Trummel	John Trummel, Gillette Office

# Health, Safety and Environment

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## Jacobs Ranch Mine wins the 2007 RTEA Environmental Excellence Award



Jeremy Hayes, Jacobs Ranch Mine, accepts the RTEA Environmental Excellence award from Nick Taylor, Vice President of Technical Services and Business Improvement.

RTEA had good environmental performance in 2007, with Jacobs Ranch Mine leading the way. Jacobs Ranch had outstanding reclamation performance during the year by reclaiming more land than it disturbed. The mine also met its environmental targets for gross energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, Jacobs Ranch generated minimal hazardous waste and minimized freshwater use in 2007. Please join us in congratulating Jacobs Ranch Mine for their 2007 performance.

## 2008 Wyoming Governor's Safety Award winners



Pictured above from left to right, Rick Fieldcamp, Rose Becker, Quay Hornbuckle, Steve Thomas, Sam Hanzlik, Fay Mettler, Marc Ostrem and Troy Mettler

## Congratulations to Antelope Mine for winning the 2008 Wyoming Governor's Safety Award

# Training

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## A new training program used to improve performance

Cordero Rojo Mine has implemented the use of RoboTutor during MSHA New Miner training. RoboTutor makes it possible to provide online testing, tutorials, surveys, evaluations, assessments and play instructional games.

RoboTutor can be used with large groups in a classroom setting or for individual online training. The program allows electronic tracking of results, comparison between users, statistical summary reports and can also contribute to a reduction in the use of paper.

Cordero Rojo Mine employees Marty Brown, Maintenance Trainer, and Doug Lambert, Senior Trainer, have created information surveys for new miners to complete during the training process. These surveys are fed into the RoboTutor database and reviewed by the trainers to determine the effectiveness of the training that is presented.

Cordero Rojo Mine has collaborated with Jacobs Ranch Mine in developing a MSHA New Miner training package for all sites and is utilizing RoboTutor to conduct surveys, store surveys and records results. Providing on-site, new

miner training gives each site more flexibility when establishing start dates for new employees, ensures quality control of MSHA mandated training requirements, allows new employees to get to their work areas sooner, and combines New Hire Orientation information with MSHA training subjects, which has decreased the total training time without sacrificing the content.

In the future, RoboTutor is slated to be used for part of the Mechanical Skills Development program. Pre- and post- assessments of mechanical theory will be given to all position levels to help determine knowledge levels and training needs. Spring Creek Mine has been using RoboTutor within their plant, production and mechanical teams for some time now, and Marty Brown has received details about using RoboTutor and imported several training surveys from Spring Creek Mine.

"RoboTutor has many other features that can be used in a variety of ways," Lambert said. "It will be challenging to determine what features can contribute to more effective training and job performance."

## Community Calendar June

### Craig

June 11-14, Whittle the Wood Rendezvous w/ performance Restless Heart

### Gillette

June 4-5, Coal Bed Methane Symposium, Central/East Pavilion

June 6, Razor City Rumble Demolition, Derby Morningside Park

June 14-15, Energy Capital of the Nation Car Show, Central Pavilion

June 20-21, Relay for Life, Complex Plaza

June 28-29, Wyoming Celtic Festival, Complex Park

### Meeker

June 20, Summer Entertainment Series, Courthouse

### Newcastle

June 27-28, Cambria Coal Mine Days, Downtown Newcastle

### Sheridan

June 7, Monster Truck Show, Sheridan County Fairgrounds

June 12-14, Celebrate the Arts Downtown, Sheridan

June 20-22, 16th Annual Bighorn Mountain Wild and Scenic Trail Runs, Big Horn Mountains

June 27-28, Relay for Life, Sheridan High School Track

June 27-29, Buffalo Bill Days, Sheridan County Fairgrounds

### Wright

June 21, Wright Days

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).

## Wyoming leads the way

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the owner of the land surface also owns the space in the rock layers to be used for placement of the CO<sub>2</sub>. The other law directs the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to develop rules to regulate the sequestration placement of all CO<sub>2</sub> except when it is being used for enhanced recovery of oil. In the latter case, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will remain the regulating agency.

Both of these are landmark laws. No other state has developed such wide-ranging solutions to help overcome some of the barriers to using CCS on a commercial scale. These stand as examples for other states, or the federal government, to use as templates in developing similar answers and moving closer to widespread use of this clean coal technology.

**Share your outdoor fun  
pictures with  
*Miners in Motion!***

**Send your photos and  
information to  
RTEAGilletteCommunications  
@riotinto.com  
or call 307-685-6146**

## Winter Fun - Best of friends



Sheyenne Jacobson, eight year-old daughter of Mark Jacobson, Cordero Rojo Mine, shows off her new horse, Sam. Sheyenne was the 2D Youth Reserve Champion at the 2008 RCM Productions Winter Series.

## Plans move forward for quality health care

Plans for a new health care center move forward as RTEA works with the Wyoming Quality Healthcare Coalition. The foundation, through its rigorous search process, selected CHD Meridian to help them create a new center in Gillette, Wyoming. CHD Meridian has provided on-site health care services to some of this country's largest employers for the past 40 years.

By August 2008, CHD Meridian will open a health care center in Gillette that will provide quality care with limited waiting and low costs. More than 5,200 employees, their covered dependents and retirees will have access to the center, which will be staffed by approximately 15 healthcare and administrative professionals, including a dedicated wellness professional. Primary health care, radiology, pharmacy and wellness services will be available at the health care center.

CHD Meridian Healthcare, an I-trax Company, is the leading provider of integrated workplace health and productivity solutions and serves more than 160 clients at nearly 300 locations in the United States. Some of CHD Meridian Healthcare's clients include: BMW, Deutsche Bank, Eastman Chemical, Lowe's, Toyota and Unum.

More updates and additional details will be provided through Miners in Motion and other communications.



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## New hires and retirees March 1 - March 31

### **Antelope Mine**

Jamey Rohrer  
Tom Russell  
Nick Seaman  
Mike South

### **Colowyo Mine**

Kenny Arnett  
Mark Colclasure  
Carl Lawrence  
Robert Lull

### **Cordero Rojo Mine**

Shawn Cruickshank  
Rich Gaffield, Jr.  
Joey Gonzales  
David Kinghorn  
Jeff Kinsolving  
Jason Mack  
Rod Partridge  
Eric Stryker  
Lana Tegeler  
Matt Williamson

### **Jacobs Ranch Mine**

Eddie Kirchoff  
Joe Larralde, JR.  
Curtis McGuigan  
Matthew Mooney  
Bob Oliver

### **Jacobs Ranch Mine (Cont.)**

Jason Schalesky  
Randy Sogge

### **Spring Creek mine**

Charlie Barney  
Justin Zingham

## **Retirees**

### **Colowyo Mine**

Jim Overton  
Roy Firestone

### **Jacobs Ranch Mine**

Dennis Johnson

### **RTEA**

Matt Levar

### **Spring Creek Mine**

Rob Hunter

## ***Business Improvement: Colowyo Mine***

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the Sort and Set phases completed. 5S Coordinator Jaime Gish-Peirce has been studying the setup and planning the final Shine, Standardize and Sustain phases daily with the PM mechanics. PM Mechanics Irwin Martinez and Lloyd Nelson have been instrumental in the execution of Sort phase, putting in long hours sorting through years of accumulation.

The operations team has been using a different tool of Lean Manufacturing to address issues affecting them. Error-proofing was the focus of 005 plant operator Donnie Kendall as he looked to improve the operating time of his plant. Metal being caught by the magnet on the conveyer was causing coal to plug the conveyer and accumulate on the surfaces in front of the magnet. To prevent this error from happening, Donnie took his idea to electricians Stan Garcia and Blain Lavedure who engineered switches that will stop the conveyer when accumulation begins to build.

These are just a few ways that the employees of Colowyo Mine display their dedication to the mine and the continuous improvement culture. The project managers would like to thank all of the employees involved on these and other business improvement efforts.



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## Critical Issues

### Wyoming leads the way on carbon capture and sequestration

*Clean coal technologies* is a phrase seen almost daily in newspapers relative to climate change and US reliance on coal to provide more than half of the country's electricity. Key among those technologies is Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS), ultimately involving placement of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from coal-fired utilities into unique and isolated layers of rock deep in the earth. That is the sequestration process and prevents the CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere.

However, CCS has not yet been developed on a commercial scale. One of the reasons is that legal and regulatory challenges (e.g., who owns the space in the rock layers that will receive the CO<sub>2</sub>, which agencies will regulate those actions, etc) have not been addressed. Some Wyoming legislators and the Governor of Wyoming took up this challenge, and RTEA assisted those efforts with background information, expert advice, and government affairs support for two bills that emerged.

The Wyoming CCS bills were debated on the floor during the 2008 legislative session; both bills passed and were signed into law by the Governor in March. One law specifies that

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### Do you have a suggestion for Miners in Motion?

Share your ideas with one of the following committee members:

#### Antelope Mine

Mari Arends  
Pat Baumann  
Lynn Vogel  
Rose Becker  
Kyle Wendtland  
Greg Mager

#### Jacobs Ranch Mine

Lorie Klein  
Carolyn Schroeder

#### Spring Creek Mine

Jennifer Holz  
Sam Street

#### Colowyo

Tanya Stoffle  
Tonia Folks  
Steve Loshbaugh

#### RTEA

AJ Tomer (Occ Health)  
Patti Cost (Health Adv)  
Karen Nelson (Ops)  
Steve Whites (BIP)  
Tracy Breinholt (IS&T)  
Bob Green (Sust. Dev)  
Heidi Lowe  
(Communities)  
Kay French (Sust. Dev)  
Tonya Simpson (H&S)  
DelAnn Dowling (HR)

#### Cordero Rojo

Janice Muirhead  
Jen Monger  
Diane Solomon

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