

# RIO TINTO

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ENERGY  
AMERICA

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**Rio Tinto Energy America  
Is new name of Kennecott Energy**

GILLETTE, WY. – Kennecott Energy Company (KEC) today announced that it will change its corporate name to Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA), effective today. London-based Rio Tinto Group founded KEC in 1993, when it acquired the Spring Creek and Antelope coal mines from PacificCorp Holdings, Inc. The Kennecott name is more generally recognized with copper production. The Rio Tinto Group is using the Rio Tinto identity worldwide to achieve a global recognition of its minerals and mining operations.

“This is a natural evolution of our common culture,” said Bret Clayton, president and CEO, based in Gillette. “We have been focusing on collaboration and efficiencies within our mine groups through the “One KEC” concept. The importance of the Rio Tinto name adds a new dimension to our coal companies and locations.”

Clayton emphasized that this is a change in name only and is not a reorganization.

“There will be no change in any of our mining operations or staffing,” Clayton said. “The only change will show up on signage, work clothing, business cards, advertising, office materials and, eventually, at the top of everyone’s paycheck.”

Clayton said, as the expected benefits of the name change are realized, employees will share in the improved performance of the company stock through profit sharing and incentive plans. He said Rio Tinto has broad recognition throughout the world as a leader

in the mining and minerals industry and an excellent reputation in areas vital to leveraging new and existing development opportunities.

“Because of Rio Tinto’s solid reputation throughout the world, it has been able to develop resources that others can’t,” he said.

KEC – now Rio Tinto Energy America – is one of the safest and most efficient energy producers in the world. The Rio Tinto Group is a world leader in finding, extracting and processing the earth’s mineral resources. RTEA specializes in the production of low sulfur, sub-bituminous coal, and operates five coal mines located in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. With a combined workforce of more than 2,100 employees, and with the help of hundreds of contractors and suppliers, the company provides fuel to its energy company customers who generate nearly six percent of the nation’s electricity.

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