

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2009

Media Contacts:
Rio Tinto Energy America
Heidi Hockett-Lowe
(307) 687-6021
Heidi.lowe@riotinto.com

Rio Tinto Energy America's Antelope Mine receives State of Wyoming Mine Safety Award for Large Surface Mines and the Safe Sam Award for Safety

On June 19, Rio Tinto Energy America's (RTEA) Antelope Mine received two prestigious awards:

- *The State of Wyoming Mine Safety Award in the Large Surface Mine category, and*
- *The Safe Sam Award, for safety performance records as the safest large mining operation and the safest coal mine in Wyoming during 2008*

This is the second consecutive year that Antelope Mine has received both awards, and Wyoming State Inspector of Mines Terry Adcock recognized this as an 'outstanding accomplishment.'

"This is a great achievement of which everyone at Antelope Mine can be proud," RTEA President and CEO Colin Marshall added. "The safety of our employees and contractors is our top priority and these achievements prove how dedicated our employees are to going home safe every day."

During 2008, Antelope Mine employees logged 1,038,476 man-hours of work without a lost-time accident. Earlier this year the Antelope Mine received the Wyoming Governor's Award recognizing superior safety programs and performance.

"Antelope Mine employees earned these awards. We provide the safety systems and they make them work to protect themselves and their coworkers," Antelope Mine General Manager Marc Ostrem said. "The employees take great pride in these awards, especially after receiving these honors two years running."

The State of Wyoming Mine Safety Award in the Large Surface Mine category is an award co-sponsored by the State and by the Wyoming Mining Association (WMA). The State Mine Inspector administers the selection among the qualifying candidates that logged at least 500,000 man-hours of work without a lost time injury. The Safe Sam Award is sponsored by the WMA to recognize the safest coal mine in Wyoming, and the WMA administers the selection process.

The awards were presented to representatives of the Antelope Mine and Rio Tinto Energy America during the annual meeting of the WMA. At that meeting, each of the Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA) operations in Wyoming and the RTEA headquarters offices in Gillette were recognized for more than a dozen innovative safety ideas, including pioneering factory-installed three-point seat belts on buses transporting

employees to the mines, and dust and noise reduction measures on mining equipment, among others.

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, subbituminous coal, and operates four coal mines located in Wyoming and Montana. 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.

###



Photo Caption: Pictured in the back row, from left to right, Marion Loomis from the Wyoming Mining Association, State Inspector of Mines Terry Adcock and Antelope Mine employees Jonathan Smith, Tony Litzinger, Jeff Morgan and Marc Ostrem. Front row, from left to right, Antelope Mine employee Rose Becker and Jason Begger, RTEA Manager of Wyoming Government Affairs.