

# RIO TINTO

ENERGY  
AMERICA

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## **Rio Tinto Energy America ships a record 134 million tons in 2006**

**GILLETTE, WY** – Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA) shipped a record 134.5 million tons in 2006, 10.5 million tons higher than 2005. Three of the five mines RTEA operates – Antelope Mine, Jacobs Ranch Mine, and Spring Creek Mine - achieved individual record tonnages following successful capacity expansions.

Antelope Mine accomplished record production of 33.9 million tons, 4 million tons higher than 2005. Sales were boosted in 2006 by strong demand for Antelope Mine's high quality, ultra-low sulfur coal and acceleration of the West Antelope expansion project. Jacobs Ranch Mine achieved record production of 40 million tons, 2.7 million tons higher than 2005 following the successful commissioning of the dragline and increasing the number of rail sidings. Spring Creek Mine shipped record production of 14.5 million tons, which was 1.4 million tons higher than 2005, following successful expansion projects at the mine.

"The performance in 2006 was due to the efforts of our whole team. We were able to bring on expansions promptly and work with the railroads to increase shipments to our customers." President and CEO Colin Marshall said.

“Furthermore, as our production increased, our All Incident Frequency Rate decreased by 51 percent, from 1.22 in 2005 to 0.60 in 2006,” Marshall added.

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 2,200 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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