

RIO TINTO

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Cordero Rojo Mine awarded substantial coal lease from the Bureau of Land Management

GILLETTE, WY – On April 22, Rio Tinto Energy America’s (RTEA) Cordero Rojo Mine was awarded a significant federal coal lease in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. A tract of approximately 288 million tons of mineable coal tonnage (as estimated by the Bureau of Land Management), in an area of about 2,900 acres, was awarded to Cordero Rojo Mine through a Bureau of Land Management lease sale. The lease will serve as replacement tonnage for Cordero Rojo Mine and adds potential for meeting future demand.

““We are very pleased with the successful acquisition of this Lease by Application for Cordero Rojo Mine,” Cordero Rojo Mine General Manager Joe Vaccari said. “This lease represents almost 300 million tons of additional coal tonnage that will benefit our future development plans and help supply the substantial demand for Powder River Basin coal.”

The lease by application (LBA) tonnage acquired are part of Cordero Rojo’s normal mine development in the region. This LBA process is used to acquire additional coal to replace reserves that have already been mined and reclaimed. The quality of that

reclamation was most recently recognized by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality via a 2006 Excellence in Surface Mining Award for design and implementation of riverbed reconstruction.

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 2,300 employees, and with the help of hundreds of contractors and suppliers, the company provides fuel to its energy company customers who generate approximately six percent of the nation's electricity.

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