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Spring Creek Mine Recognized for Exemplary Safety Record

GILLETTE, WY – The Spring Creek Mine near Decker, Montana, a coal-producing property of Rio Tinto Energy America (RTEA), marked its fourth year of operation today without a Lost Time incident, a remarkable record in the mining industry. As a result of the notable safety record, Spring Creek will receive Rio Tinto’s Chief Executive Safety Award for a second consecutive year.

The Big Horn County mine has produced more than 25 million tons of low-sulfur coal for electric power generation in the past two years, increasing its annual-mined output from eight million tons per year to more than 13 million tons per year, without any serious safety problems. The mine’s staff has increased by 40% to keep up with production, and employment now stands at 168.

“The people who really deserve the credit are the Spring Creek employees,” Spring Creek Mine Manager Clayton Walker said. “They have worked hard to establish a solid record for safety and have made it a part of their lives. We don’t do this for the awards—we do it because we want everyone who works at Spring Creek to go home safe.”

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Walker noted that the safety record continues, and currently stands at 1,009 days without a medical treatment case.

“It is this commitment to safety that makes Spring Creek such a great place to work,” Walker added.

The mine has also been awarded the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute’s Award for Safety, and for the second year in a row was First Runner-Up in the MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) “Sentinels of Safety” competition in the category of Large Surface Coal Mines.

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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