

# RIO TINTO

ENERGY  
AMERICA

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Spring Creek Mine awarded lease from the Bureau of Land Management**

**GILLETTE, WY** – On April 18, Rio Tinto Energy America’s (RTEA) Spring Creek Mine was awarded the largest volume of federal coal leased in the past 30 years in Montana. Approximately 109 million tons of recoverable reserves, in an area of 1,118 acres, was awarded to Spring Creek Mine through a Bureau of Land Management lease sale. The lease will serve as replacement tonnage for Spring Creek Mine and adds potential for meeting future demand.

““We are pleased with the successful acquisition of the most recent Lease by Application for Spring Creek Mine,” Spring Creek Mine General Manager Bruce Jones said. “This lease represents over 100 million tons of additional coal reserves that will benefit our future development plans.”

The lease by application (LBA) reserves acquired are part of Spring Creek’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 Spring Creek Mine reclamation was recognized in 2005 via an Excellence in Surface Mining Award from the Federal Office of Surface Mining.

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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