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Spring Creek Mine honored for outstanding reclamation

DECKER, MONT. -- Kennecott Energy Company's (KEC) Spring Creek Mine was awarded the Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) national award for outstanding reclamation efforts and exemplary stewardship on September 20th at the 2005 National Mining Association Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. This is the third consecutive year a KEC mine has won this prestigious award.

Spring Creek Mine, located just north of Decker, Mont., won the award for its significant achievements in establishing excellent topographic and vegetative diversity at the mine's South Fork reclamation. The site was reclaimed to provide wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

Senior Environmental Engineer John Lucas, Production Lead Ken Gorzalka and Equipment Operator Barry Bergstrom received the award on behalf of Spring Creek. "This is a particularly important award for Spring Creek because it relates to the excellent work everyone does for reclamation," Lucas said. "A lot of work went into planning and constructing the reclamation area and the results showcase that effort." Lucas, Gorzalka and Bergstrom all worked extensively on the award-winning reclamation project. Lyle Randen, Vice President of Powder River Basin Operations and Clayton Walker, Spring Creek Mine Manager also attended the award ceremony.

OSM is an agency of the US Department of the Interior that has responsibility for coal mine reclamation in 24 states and on Federal land. The agency has sponsored the annual award since 1986. The award recognizes the nation's most outstanding

achievements in environmentally-sound surface mining and land reclamation. KEC's Antelope Mine won the award in 2003 for work in reintroducing prairie dogs to reclaimed areas, and the company's Jacobs Ranch Mine won it again in 2004 for wetlands reconstruction.

KEC is one of the safest and most efficient energy producers in the world. The company is part of the Rio Tinto Group – a world leader in finding, extracting and processing the earth's mineral resources. Headquartered in Gillette, Wyoming, KEC specializes in the production of low sulfur, subbituminous coal and operates five coal mines located in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. With a combined workforce of more than 1,800 employees, and with the help of hundreds of contractors and suppliers, the company provides the fuel to generate nearly six percent of the nation's electricity.

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