

Press Release

Rio Tinto's Utah operations to reduce local workforce

Jan. 16, 2009

South Jordan, Utah – Rio Tinto has announced that it is reducing its headcount in Utah by 241 people. This reduction in force includes 66 current employees and 175 contractors. These reductions have begun for contractors and will begin for employees next week. Reductions are coming from within Kennecott Utah Copper, Kennecott Land, Kennecott Exploration and Rio Tinto service functions. Currently, there are approximately 2,400 employees working for Rio Tinto in Utah. Those affected Rio Tinto employees will be offered severance packages and outplacement assistance.

Today, Rio Tinto delivered a letter to elected officials to notify them of the planned employee reduction as required by the Work Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act.

In December, Rio Tinto announced a detailed package of measures in response to the unprecedented rapidity and severity of the global economic downturn, which has caused sharp falls in commodity prices and a significantly weaker outlook. One of the announced initiatives is the reduction of 14,000 roles (8,500 contractors and 5,500 employees) throughout the global business. The initiatives are aimed at preserving value for shareholders by conserving cash flow and reducing levels of debt.

“We know these decisions have personal consequences to those involved and those who remain,” said Andrew Harding, President and CEO, Kennecott Utah Copper. “Rio Tinto must respond, like so many other companies, to this global economic crisis which may continue to deteriorate.”

- More -

About Kennecott Utah Copper

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 13 percent of the U.S.'s copper needs. Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It has produced more copper ore, 18.1 million tons, than any mine in the world. Every year, Kennecott produces approximately 300,000 tons of copper, along with 500,000 ounces of gold, 4 million ounces of silver, about 30 million pounds of molybdenum, and about 1 million tons of sulfuric acid, a by-product of the smelting process. Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott Utah Copper in 1989 and has invested about \$2 billion in the modernization of KUC's operations. KUC has also spent more than \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup. www.kennecott.com

About Kennecott Land

Kennecott Land was established by parent company Rio Tinto in April 2001 to develop surplus mining land on Salt Lake Valley's West Bench. Daybreak is the first testament to a vision for sustainable communities. Daybreak is situated on 4,126 acres in South Jordan City where 20,000 homes are planned. At Kennecott Land, sustainable development is at the heart of every business decision by balancing the complex interaction of environmental, economic and social factors. Kennecott Land does this in a way that protects and strengthens what matters most to our community: strong and safe neighborhoods, quality education, a healthy and renewable environment, and a vibrant local economy. To learn more visit our websites and read the 2007 Sustainability Report. www.kennecottland.com and www.daybreakutah.com

About Kennecott Exploration

Rio Tinto Exploration seeks to discover or identify mineral resources. RTX is a world leader in mineral exploration by seeking to maximize the contribution to sustainable resource development by targeting large, long-life, high-quality ore bodies that deliver superior value. RTX fosters open and trusting relationships with employees, service providers, regulators and host communities while helping those communities build economic capacity through employment opportunities, training and supply agreements with local service providers. In addition, RTX minimizes the use of natural resources during the exploration process. www.riotinto.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the United Kingdom, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminum, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and Southern Africa. www.riotinto.com