

## Statement

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### **Kennecott Utah Copper's response to the Salt Lake County South Tailings Impoundment Committee's seismic stability study and run out analysis**

**October 12, 2009**

South Jordan, UT - Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) today received the Salt Lake County South Tailings Impoundment Committee's draft seismic stability study results, which includes the results of a run out analysis. This map was prepared by Tetra Tech as a part of the County's independent review of impoundment data. The draft findings clearly indicate that the residents of Magna, including those in the Meadow Green Estates, are not in danger of the tailings running out onto their property in the event of a +7.2 MCE earthquake.

The Tetra Tech results agree with previous studies of post-earthquake stability conducted by KUC. Both the Tetra Tech study and previous KUC studies support the conclusion that homes in Magna would not be at risk due to a tailings impoundment failure during a significant seismic event. The potentially impacted land is buffer land owned by KUC or is part Highway 201.

KUC has performed significant work with industry-leading engineering companies to study and stabilize the impoundment for more than 20 years to protect residents from such a risk.

We are sorry that KUC's activities two decades ago cast doubt on our integrity. We are pleased there is now conclusive, third-party information available regarding the safety of KUC's South Tailings Impoundment. We appreciate the County's willingness to manage this study.

#### **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 is one of the top producing copper mines in the world with production at more than 18.1 million tons. 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. KUC employs 1,800 people and hundreds of contractors. [www.kennecott.com](http://www.kennecott.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](http://www.riotinto.com)

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