



## News Release

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# Commitment to Sustainable Development Earns Kennecott Utah Copper Two LEED Certifications

*High-elevation buildings rise to new heights*

(Copperton, Utah – Oct. 4, 2007) - The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) recently awarded Kennecott Utah Copper Company (KUC) a LEED Silver Certification for the Kennecott Mine Administration Building and certification for the Bingham Canyon Mine Visitor Center. The USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ certifies buildings where measures have been taken to reduce environmental impacts. Such measures include the use of recycled materials, increased use of daylight, reduced water and energy consumption, and innovative design.

“Being recognized with LEED certifications shows Kennecott’s commitment to sustainable development,” said William Champion, President, KUC. “By building energy efficient buildings, we help reduce our environmental impact.”

The Visitor Center and Mine Administration Buildings are unique because they are portable. The portability of the buildings helps meet Kennecott’s future needs by providing sustainable options as the mine expands and changes. The buildings have the ability to be combined with other modules to create larger or smaller buildings through re-assembly. In addition, the one-time construction and subsequent repeated use of these buildings benefits the environment in ways that are not realized in any standard design and construction process.

“While these buildings cost 10 to 15 percent more than regular buildings, they allow us

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to continue achieving environmental stewardship as our needs change,” said Ted Himebaugh, Mine Manager, Bingham Canyon Mine. “Our employees take pride in the fact that they work in energy efficient buildings that will meet our needs for many years.”

The LEED Certifications were achieved through environmentally friendly design and building standards. The projects were reviewed for measures taken in the categories of sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation and design.

“Enhanced indoor environmental quality, responsible use of material resources and the creation of a multi-use, movable building module were all sustainable solutions created through this process,” said Garth Shaw, AIA LEED AP, GSBS Project Manager.

### **Kennecott Mine Administration Building – Silver Certification**

At an elevation of 6,190 feet in the Oquirrh Mountains, the Bingham Canyon Mine Administration Building houses 55 employees who encouraged meeting LEED certified standards. The building houses operations staff who manage the Bingham Canyon Mine.

LEED building features include:

- Six portable modules, which can be relocated as the mine expands.
- More than 20 percent recycled content.
- Day-lighting control measures that minimize glare and control direct sunlight penetration.
- Daylight sensors that control dimmable ballasts on all lights within 20 feet of exterior windows, controlling lighting levels and saving energy.
- Carbon dioxide monitors that improve fresh air intake.
- Water systems that reduce potable water use by more than 50 percent through waterless urinals and low-flow water fixtures.
- Low-emitting carpet, paint, furniture and sealants.
- Use of 100 percent renewable energy.
- Achieved 12 of 15 possible LEED points for indoor environmental quality.

### **Kennecott Visitors Center – Certified**

At an elevation of 6,340 feet in the Oquirrh Mountains, the Bingham Canyon Mine Visitor Center has welcomed more than 2.5 million visitors since 1992. Last year, the Visitor Center was relocated and rebuilt to double the size of the original Visitor Center and reopened with new exhibits.

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LEED building features include:

- One portable module and the relocation and re-use of the existing Visitor Center, which allow the building to be relocated as the mine expands.
- More than 40 percent recycled and reused material.
- Carbon dioxide monitors that improve fresh air intake.
- Water systems that reduce potable water use by more than 45 percent through waterless urinals and low-flow fixtures.
- Low-emitting carpet, paint and sealants.
- Use of 100 percent renewable energy.
- Water efficient landscaping.
- “Innovation in Design” credit achieved for mobility.

### **About LEED and USGBC**

LEED is a nationally recognized Green Building rating system, meaning it is a guideline and method of confirming a building’s performance and sustainable or green aspects. The LEED system is administered by the USGBC, a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C., focusing on promoting environmentally responsible design. The General Services Administration (GSA) recently issued a report stating that LEED is the most credible green building rating system. LEED rating systems are certified, silver, gold and platinum. [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

### **About Kennecott Utah Copper**

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 17 percent of this country's copper needs. Kennecott Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It has produced more copper, 17.3 million tons, than any mine in the world. Every year, Kennecott produces about 300,000 tons of copper, along with 400,000 ounces of gold, 3 million ounces of silver, about 24 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 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 has 1,600 full-time employees and 600 contractors. For 70 years, it was the largest private employer in the State of Utah. [www.kennecott.com](http://www.kennecott.com).

### **About GSBS Architects**

GSBS specializes in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and planning services through offices in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Fort Worth, Texas. GSBS has been at the forefront of sustainable design for more than three decades and involved with the LEED rating system since its inception. The firm recently received two out of three awards given by Utah AIA for excellence in environmental architecture and named AIA’s Firm of the Year. GSBS has a staff of 90 professionals, of which 25 members are LEED Accredited. [www.gsbs-pc.com](http://www.gsbs-pc.com).

