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April 3, 2009

VIA Facsimile (916) 464-4645 and Certified Return Receipt Mail

Victor J. Izzo
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

**DRAFT CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER, CENTRAL, CHERRY HILL, EMPIRE, MANZANITA,
AND WEST END MINES, COLUSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Izzo:

This letter is in response to your March 18, 2009 correspondence concerning the above-referenced matter. Please be advised that we believe you have sent this draft cleanup and abatement order to the wrong entity as it relates to the "Cordero Mining Company".

The Cordero Mining entity to which your March 18th letter is addressed is solely involved in mining the Cordero Mine, a large coal mine located in Wyoming. This Cordero Mining entity, called "Cordero Mining Co.", is a member of the Rio Tinto Energy America group ("RTEA"). Cordero Mining Co., a Delaware corporation, was merged with and into Cordero Mining LLC in December 2008. Neither RTEA nor Cordero Mining LLC has ever owned or operated the mining properties associated with your draft cleanup and abatement order.

We are aware that there is another similarly named entity called "Cordero Mining Company", which was formed as a Nevada corporation in 1941 for the purpose of supplying mercury for Sunoco motor oils. We believe this Cordero Mining Company has some connection to Sun Company. This is not the same entity as our Cordero Mining Co. now known as Cordero Mining LLC.

Thus, we believe Cordero Mining Co. (now Cordero Mining LLC) has been wrongly identified as a potentially responsible party for the mine properties at issue in your March 18, 2009 correspondence. If you have information that indicates otherwise, we would appreciate receiving it.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or Kevin Baker, RTEA Corporate Counsel at 307.687.6008.

Very truly yours,


Susan E. Taylor
Corporate Counsel
Rio Tinto Services, Inc.

cc: Kevin Baker, RTEA Corporate Counsel

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