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Press Release

Rio Tinto's Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company Signs Construction Contract with The Boldt Company

(Ishpeming, Mich. — July 19, 2010) — Rio Tinto and Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company (KEMC) are pleased to announce the signing of a contract with The Boldt Company (Boldt) for structural, mechanical, and electrical work at the Eagle Mine Site located in Michigamme Township, about 25 miles northwest of the City of Marquette. Mobilization began 15 July 2010.

Rio Tinto is committed to an incident and injury free workplace and our goal is zero harm. Boldt executives have a goal of “Zero Incidents” and make safety a part of the everyday culture. In 2008 Boldt was named one of “America’s Safest Companies” according to EH&S Magazine (formerly Occupational Hazards magazine), one of the leading safety journals in the nation. “Our first business priority is to make sure everyone goes home safely,” said Jeff Johnson, Vice President of Human Resources and Risk Management. “Our customers trust us to get their projects done on time and on budget, but they also expect us to run a safe worksite.”

Boldt, a member of the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, has built a number of significant projects in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan including the new Bell Memorial Hospital in Ishpeming, the Baghouse upgrade for Units 5,6,7,8, and 9 at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, The Berry Event Center and Art & Design Studio Addition for Northern Michigan University, remodeling of Wadsworth Hall at Michigan

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Technological University in Houghton, as well as numerous mining and paper mill projects.

Boldt executives understand the value of using local workers and subcontractors. Tom Boldt, CEO says “Our first goal is always to tap into the local workforce for our projects.” Tom Boldt indicated that “Based on other similar projects, the economic impact of employing hometown skilled labor and regionally based subcontractors is significant and also produces a high quality outcome for our customers.” On another Ishpeming area project Boldt currently employs 80 workers, 95% of those workers are from the local area.

Rio Tinto is pleased to be working with Boldt on the Eagle Project.

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About Boldt

The Boldt Company is headquartered in Appleton, WI and provides professional construction services to customers in a variety of industrial, institutional, healthcare, commercial, and renewable energy markets nationwide. Boldt is among the top-ranked general contractors in the nation and has 13 offices throughout the United States. www.boldt.com.

About Kennecott Eagle Minerals

A wholly owned unit of Rio Tinto, Marquette County, Michigan-based Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company is the owner, developer, and future operator of Eagle Mine in western Marquette County of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (USA). When built, Eagle Mine will be the only primary nickel mine in the U.S., and is expected to produce 300 million pounds of nickel, 250 million pounds of copper and trace amounts of other minerals. During operations Kennecott will employ more than 150 people, as well as numerous contractors. www.kennecotteagleminerals.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