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**Press Release**

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**Statement by Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company in response to EPA determination that federal permit does not apply to 'TWIS'**

(Ishpeming, Mich. — Thursday, July 1, 2010) — Today's determination by EPA that a federal permit — separate from a comparable state permit issued previously to Kennecott — is not required of Kennecott for its system to return clean, safe water from mine operations back to the environment provides clarification important for the community as mine facility construction proceeds. We also appreciate the commitment of EPA officials over the past months to work with interested parties to resolve the question fairly and in timely fashion.

Kennecott takes seriously our obligation to comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to our activities, and we understand that the community must have confidence that they are being properly applied and strictly followed.

Kennecott has obtained the state permit for its treated water discharge system (Treated Water Infiltration System, or 'TWIS'), which will return water treated to drinking quality standards back to groundwater via an above ground network of perforated pipes, similar to systems used by many Michigan agricultural and other industrial operations, also regulated by State authority.

While today's determination by EPA resolves a regulatory question, Kennecott remains committed to open dialogue with community interests on all aspects of its projects.

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**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](http://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](http://www.riotinto.com)