

News Release – May 7, 2010

**RIO TINTO MINERALS ANNOUNCES PRICE INCREASES FOR ITS
NORTH AMERICAN TALC PRODUCTS**

Increase will offset continuous rise in mining, processing and transportation costs

Denver, Colorado – Rio Tinto Minerals – a world leader in talc supply and science – announced an eight percent price increase, effective June 1, 2010, for talc products from its North American operations. The increase will offset the continuous rise in mining, processing, packaging and transportation costs.

Rio Tinto Minerals supplies about one-fifth of the global demand for talc under its century-old *Luzenac* product brand. The company is credited with inventing most talc product and processing advances worldwide as a result of its ongoing investment in research and development.

“Customers rely on Rio Tinto Minerals for superior products and services and unparalleled supply reliability,” said Kent Cutler, Vice President Sales, Americas. “We have a strong track record of continuously improving our operating efficiency and cost base and these efforts will continue. However, we also need to offset cost increases that are beyond our control so that we can continue investing in improving our products and services to meet our customers’ needs.”

Rio Tinto Minerals employs nearly 250 people at its talc operations in North America, including mining and refining operations in Montana, Canada and Vermont; and processing facilities in Texas and Mexico City. This team is complemented by regional sales, customer service and technical support professionals.

About Rio Tinto Minerals

Rio Tinto Minerals is a member of Rio Tinto, a leading international mining group. The organization supplies about one-fifth of the global demand for talc from its mines in Montana, Vermont, Canada, Austria, France, Italy, Spain and Australia. These products are marketed under the *Luzenac* brand and used in paper, paint, polymers, ceramics and personal care products. The organization also supplies nearly half of the global demand for borates from its mines in California and Argentina. Rio Tinto Minerals is an industry leader in continuously improving how its products and practices contribute to sustainable development.

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