

NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON TO RESUME MINING AT TINTAYA

BHP Billiton today announced that it will re-start sulphide mining operations at its Tintaya copper mine in southern Peru during August. This follows the approval of a new mine plan and a review of projected copper market conditions. Shipments of copper concentrates from Tintaya are expected to recommence in early calendar 2004. Production from Tintaya was originally curtailed in January 2002 due to rising global copper inventory levels and a belief that reducing production during this period of low demand would enhance the long-term value of BHP Billiton's copper business.

Brad Mills, President, BHP Billiton Base Metals said, "The new mine plan at Tintaya will reduce operating costs to a level that makes it very competitive in the global copper industry. We believe the demand fundamentals of the copper market are improving such that metal produced from Tintaya's concentrate production will be needed by the second quarter of next year, when the first refined metal becomes available."

Tintaya is capable of producing 90,000 tonnes of copper contained in concentrate per annum. It is currently producing 34,000 tonnes of copper cathode per annum from its oxide SX-EW operations.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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