

Rio Tinto logs record coal production in '08

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Rio Tinto reported record production at its coal mines in Campbell County in 2008.

"Strong customer demand for Rio Tinto's Powder River Basin coal supported by incremental expansions in Rio Tinto Energy America's mines resulted in record annual production in 2008," according to the report that the company released Thursday.

Rio Tinto Energy America, Rio Tinto's subsidiary owns three mines in Campbell County" Antelope, Cordero-Rojo and Jacobs Ranch. Combined, those mines employ more than 1,700 people.

The company announced in December that it will cut 14,000 jobs in its worldwide operations, most of which would be in construction. The company expects that the reduction is expected to help reduce its net debt by \$10 billion in 2009. Official from Rio Tinto Energy America said later that the cutbacks won't include employees in Campbell County.

The Numbers

(In millions of short tons)

Mine 2008 2007

Antelope 35.8 34.4

Cordero-Rojo 40.0 40.4

Jacobs Ranch 42.1 38.1

Source: U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Rio Tinto Energy America