150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt Most Controversial Mining Companies of 2011 March 2012 MOST CONTROVERSIAL MINING COMPANIES OF 2011 The extraction industry is traditionally one of the most criticized by various stakeholders for its negative impacts on communities and the environment. This RepRisk special report focuses on mining companies and their projects in 2011. In order of ranking, the 10 Most Controversial Mining Companies of 2011 were: 1. Alpha Natural Resources 2. Newmont Mining Corp 3. Glencore International 4. BHP Billiton 5. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold 6. Rio Tinto 7. Compania de Minas Buenaventura 7. Barrick Gold (equal ranking) 9. Anglo American 9 Vedanta Resources (equal ranking) These mining giants and their global operations have come under fire for allegedly polluting potable water supplies, scarring landscapes and damaging sensitive ecosystems. There were also numerous allegations detected by RepRisk related to impacts on local communities and effects on the traditional way of life of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, these companies were accused of having poor occupational health and safety standards, which resulted in toxic emissions and accidents that have caused injuries, fatalities or serious illness. The negative stakeholder sentiment captured throughout 2011 by RepRisk indicates that it may be in a company's best interests to heed the warning signals and proactively address the environmental, social and governance issues raised by various activist groups, employees, governments, shareholders, and communities. For some companies, such as Vedanta and Rio Tinto, mining operations were so heavily criticized that activists disrupted their Annual General Meetings, calling on the companies to put a stop to alleged human rights abuses near their work sites and improve their stance on the environment. For Newmont and Minas Buenaventura, the outcry surrounding their Conga Mine led to the suspension of the project in late November. BHP Billiton attracted a great deal of NGO criticism for its allegedly widespread environmental destruction and human rights abuses. Following Glencore's Initial Public Offering in 2011, public and media interest in the company's activities increased and it was heavily criticized for operations in Africa and South America. Alpha Natural Resources' purchase of Massey Energy saw its RepRisk Index soar, making it the most controversial miner of the year. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold faced allegations of human rights abuses, particularly in Papua New Guinea where its subsidiary was accused of perpetuating the abuse of workers by paying police to guard its Grasberg Mine. It was further accused of contaminating water bodies with heavy metals from mine tailings. Barrick Gold had to contend with multiple claims of sexual abuse by security staff, and Anglo American faced ongoing lawsuits by former mineworkers in South Africa, who attributed their illnesses

to having worked for the company. RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 1 of 13 1. ALPHA NATURAL RESOURCES INC Alpha Natural Resources shot to the top of the most controversial mining companies list following its purchase of Massey Energy in June 2011. Massey has been targeted for the controversial practice of mountaintop removal mining, as well as alleged pollution, safety problems, poor employment, and fraud issues. Critics of mountaintop removal claim that it scars the landscape, threatens wildlife and contaminates drinking water. Massey had a well-documented history of problems prior to its purchase by Alpha Natural Resources including the infamous explosion at the Upper Big Branch coal mine in April 2010 that resulted in at least 25 miner fatalities. Since the incident, the company allegedly received over 1000 citations from the US Mining Safety and Health Administration. Furthermore, the investigation reportedly found that Massey had kept two sets of books to hide safety problems from authorities. The company's security chief allegedly obstructed the investigation by ordering thousands of documents to be destroyed and notifying mine officials about the arrival of government inspectors. He was later found to have also committed perjury. Alpha Natural Resources has since agreed to pay approximately USD 210 million to resolve civil and criminal penalties for the repeated violations. Massey and its subsidiary, Rawl Sales & Processing, were accused by West Virginia residents of contaminating aguifers and wells with coal slurry. Approximately 600 plaintiffs claimed that 1.4 billion gallons of toxic slurry had been pumped into underground mines between 1978 and 1987. According to the legal action, this resulted in a wide range of health issues, including cancer and chronic gastrointestinal disorders, in surrounding communities. Around 350 lawsuits were reportedly launched and several are still in progress. The companies have already paid out USD 35 million in settlement fees. In Logan County, West Virginia, environmental groups have challenged the permit granted to Alpha subsidiarý Highland Mining's Reylas mine. In Appalachia, residents claimed that the company operates outside the law and invests significant funds into lobbying bodies in order to influence the political system and fight government regulation on mining safety and the environment. There are further allegations that waste and dust emissions are not effectively controlled and that operations pollute waterways and groundwater. RepRisk Index for Alpha Natural Resources RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 2 of 13 2. NEWMONT MINING CORP US-based gold and copper producer Newmont Mining received significant criticism during the course of 2011, in particular for the impact of its mining projects in Peru, Indonesia, Ghana and the US. The company is said to have a poor international record on human rights and has been accused of masterminding numerous abductions of activists. In Peru, Newmont Mining is involved in the highly controversial Conga gold and copper mine project.

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The project is owned jointly with Peruvian company Compania de Minas Buenaventura. At the

150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt end of November, Newmont announced a suspension of the USD 4.8 billion Conga mining project after days of increasingly violent protests, in which several people were reportedly injured. In Ghana, local communities refused to relocate for Newmont Ghana Gold's Akyem Project resulting in violent clashes with police forces. Community members claimed they were being illegally relocated to an inadequate camp. Furthermore, Newmont Ghana Gold was accused of poisoning the Subri River in the Brong Ahafo Region where the company operates its Ahafo Gold Mine. Moreover, documents published by Wikileaks in September showed that Newmont was allegedly responsible for a 2009 leak of highly toxic cyanide from the same mine. In Indonesia, environmentalists put pressure on the government not to allow Newmont Nusa Tenggara (NNT) to continue dumping tailings from its Batu Hijau copper and gold mine into the sea. The practice has allegedly led to a reduction of the fish population and polluted water. In October, environmentalists objected to the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Resource's decision to present environment management awards to NNT. The activists claimed that the company continues to dump around 140,000 tons of tailings into the sea, allegedly 21 times the amount of Jakarta city's waste. The US Justice Department and the US Environmental Protection Agency came to an agreement in September with Newmont and Dawn Mining concerning the payment for the cleanup of the Midnite Superfund Site. Midnite Mine is a former open-pit uranium mine that was closed in 1981. The cleanup has an estimated cost of USD 193 million RepRisk Index for Newmont Mining Corp RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 3 of 13 3. GLENCORE INTERNATIONAL PLC Since the announcement of its Initial Public Offering in April 2011, media focus has turned to Glencore and its complex web of subsidiaries and affiliated companies. Glencore's notorious secrecy has become increasingly controversial as cases of environmental and human rights abuses linked to its global operations have been brought to light. The company's activities continue to be targeted for safety, environmental impact, human rights and tax issues Glencore's mining activities in Katanga, a poorly regulated conflict zone of the Democratic Republic of Congo, have made it a target for human rights organizations. There are suspicions that the company supplies copper and cobalt from freelance miners, many of whom are children, who work under life-threatening conditions in the Tilwezembe Open Pit Mine. The mine is owned by Katanga Mining, a Glencore subsidiary. Sulfur dioxide emissions from the Nkana cobalt plant and Mufulira copper smelter, owned by Mopani Copper Mines (MCM), reportedly exceed locally prescribed limits in Zambia. MCM is majority-owned by Glencore. Around 300,000 locals are reportedly being affected, suffering health problems and a loss of crops. Large amounts of sulfuric acid are allegedly injected into the ground to extract the ore, with devastating effects on the environment and residents.

In Peru, Glencore's Empresa Minera Los Quenuales has allegedly harassed union members, and two people were reportedly killed during a blockade. At its La Jagua coal mine in northern Colombia, the company was 150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt also accused of trying to prevent unions from being formed.

Glencore's Colombian subsidiary, Prodeco, has also been criticized for allegedly operating in areas where paramilitary forces have forced local residents off their lands and killed at least 18 people. Furthermore, the company came under fire for reportedly disposing of waste illegally. Xstrata (in which Glencore holds a large share) has a one-third stake in El Cerrejon, which operates a controversial coal mine in Colombia. The mine has reportedly contaminated groundwater and created air pollution, which has led to health problems for the local people. The two companies have also been accused of anti-competitive behaviour as xstrata has allegedly received several contracts from Glencore that were not subject to competitive tenders. Century Aluminum, which is 44 percent owned by Glencore and also acts as a major supplier, has allegedly breached a string of environmental laws in the US, including air pollution and groundwater contamination. In China, Glencore has a stake in the proposed PolyMet copper mine, which has also drawn criticism due to its potential impacts on the environment and locals' livelihoods. Furthermore, food security analysts have accused Glencore of causing a rise in the price of raw commodities, making it increasingly difficult for poor consumers to feed their families. The company is said to have used its dominant position within the global market to drive up prices through speculative activity and also to have sought illicit information from authorities in Russia and Belgium to gain a competitive advantage in local markets. RepRisk Index for Glencore RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 4 of 13 4. BHP BILLITON PLC / Ltd In 2011, BHP Billiton continued to be one of the most controversial companies in its sector with a consistently high RepRisk Index. It attracted a great deal of NGO criticism for its alleged widespread environmental destruction and human rights abuses. BHP's operations have constantly been associated with resettlement or the forced relocation of communities, the destruction of traditional livelihoods, human rights abuses and the violation of indigenous peoples' rights. Occupational health and safety was one of the issues consistently highlighted in 2011. Fatalities at the Cerrejon Coal Mine in Colombia in late 2010 had already called attention to alleged poor working conditions. Despite a commitment to improving health and safety, BHP has reported 26 deaths from 2009 to 2011. According to a survey conducted by the Financial Times, BHP has failed to decrease the number of fatalities at their operations over the past five years. In Pakistan, it was reported that 90 percent of the villagers living near the Zamzama gas plant operated by BHP Billiton are allegedly suffering from various diseases resulting from toxic fumes emitted by ponds at the plant. In Australia, workers were also reported to have been exposed to asbestos on a внр тееkay

shipping vessel. Other issues were highlighted at the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance's (BMA) Peak Downs and Saraji mines in Australia.

The company's drilling techniques have also been controversial. An NGO report called "Dirty Energy" targeted BHP's deep sea oil production, which involves a more carbon intensive process than conventional oil production. Furthermore, BHP reportedly has a huge stake in US shale gas, with plans to use the controversial hydraulic fracturing (fracking) technique to develop it. In Arkansas, BHP

150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt Billiton faced a class action lawsuit over the negative impact of fracking operations. Critics also accused BHP's CEO of misleading the public regarding its corporate social responsibility agenda when 139 BHP Billiton companies in its group were highlighted as operating from international tax havens. This was further highlighted by the report "Publish what you pay" which criticized BHP for alleged tax evasion. The company was ranked as the 13th least transparent company for country level disclosure on its international operations in Transparency International's "Promoting Revenue Transparency" 2011 Report on Oil and Gas Companies. RepRisk Index for BHP Billiton PLC RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 5 of 13 5. FREEPORT-MCMORAN COPPER & GOLD INC Freeport-McMoRan operations were highly criticised throughout the year for allegations of poor employment conditions and human rights abuses. In Papua New Guinea, the company's subsidiary, PT Freeport Indonesia, was accused of perpetuating human rights abuses by paying Indonesian police forces USD 14 million to guard its Grasberg Mine. One union spokesman stated that he and other union members feared for their lives following deadly attacks on company employees. In October 2011, police allegedly opened fire on striking Freeport workers as they boarded a bus to join the demonstration. Since then, at least four workers and two residents have been killed by gunmen near the mine. Workers have also been involved in a pay dispute with the company that resulted in a 3-month strike of 8,000 miners. Local tribesmen also joined the striking workers to air their grievances over land rights and pollution issues. Freeport has reportedly admitted in the past to paying local military and police forces to guarantee security at the mine, despite accusations that the military has violated locals' human rights. According to environmental group WALHI, the Freeport mine has polluted a world heritage-protected national park by pumping billions of tons of mine tailings into rivers and estuaries, threatening endangered species and polluting forests and water bodies with heavy metals such as copper and arsenic. Freeport-McMoRan also faced labor disputes and strikes in Peru, where the government was forced to step in to mediate a wage deal with workers at the company's Cerro Verde Mine after they began a hunger strike. RepRisk Index for Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 6 of 13 6. RIO TINTO PLC NGOs have targeted Rio Tinto over its alleged human rights and environmental abuses around the world. keeping the company in the media spotlight throughout 2011. Protests organized by representatives from regions where Rio Tinto has operations, such as Indonesia, Mongolia and the US, were held at the company's AGM in April.

Key issues that have been highly publicized include uranium mining; alleged genocide and war crimes in Papua

150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt New Guinea; and the risk of social and environmental damage at many mining projects proposed by Rio Tinto and its subsidiaries.

In Australia, health and safety conditions and a lack of transparency at the Mount Thorley, Hunter Valley and Bengalla coal mines, which are managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia, have drawn criticism and media attention throughout the course of the year. At Rio Tinto's Bell Bay smelter, union members allege they were harassed by managers of the project. Meanwhile Rio Tinto Alcan pleaded guilty in court to spilling over 62,000 liters of unleaded petrol, resulting in the contamination of soil and groundwater in Arnhem Land. An NGO report stated that radioactive water is also in danger of spilling from the Ranger Uranium Mine into an Aboriginal community area and Kakadu's World Heritage-listed wetlands. The mine is

operated by Energy Resource of Australia, which is controlled by Rio Tinto. Reportedly, over the past 30 years, roughly 100,000 liters of contaminated water have leaked out of the mine's tailings dam per day.

Environmentalists have called on Rio Tinto to stop uranium mining in Western Australia, claiming the company produces radioactive waste which has been known to cause intergenerational sickness. The company was also criticized for supplying to Tokyo Electric Power (the operator of the two Fukushima plants that experienced melt down and cooling problems in Japan), despite Tokyo Electric Power's reported issues of ongoing falsification of information and cover-ups.

In Africa, uranium mining has also been blamed for pollution and for alleged detrimental health impacts on local populations. In addition, the company's operations are often located in areas where regulations and tax laws are lax. In 2011, Rio Tinto was accused of not allowing for proper public consultation, a lack of transparency, failing to deal with waste properly, and health and safety issues regarding its workers in African countries.

New projects proposed by Rio Tinto have also gained attention due to the alleged ecological and social risks they pose. In Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan has been sued by two First Nation tribes in British Columbia's Supreme Court given Kenney Dam's alleged adverse impacts on their culture, sustenance and fisheries.

RepRisk Index for Rio Tinto

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7. (EQUAL) COMPANIA DE MINAS BUENAVENTURA SA During the course of 2011, the Peruvian Compania de Minas Buenaventura has been harshly criticized for its proposed Conga gold mine, jointly owned with Newmont Mining. The project, located in the northern Peruvian town of Celendin and worth USD 4.8 billion, has been fiercely opposed by local communities. Buenaventura is Peru's largest publicly traded precious metals company and a major holder of

mining rights in the country.

In April 2011, four farmers were killed by Peruvian police in the town of Oyon during a clash with Buenaventura. Farmers were reportedly seeking a financial contribution for the water and sewage damage and the return of the land used by the company for its mining operations.

In November, farmers protested against the project, expressing concerns about water resources given that it is located close to 30 lakes that supply water to three provinces. Protesters also claimed that they will see little or no benefit from the project and stated that irrespective of any harsh response from police,

150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt they would continue demonstrating until the government addressed their concerns. In late November, Peru's deputy minister resigned after allegedly being unable to find a resolution to address the escalating protests against the Conga mine. Following the continuous clashes between protesters and police, the president of Peru declared a state of emergency in the impoverished Cajamarca region. At the end of the month the suspension of the project was announced. Following the events, in January 2012, the Peruvian government announced a package of development investments in the Cajamarca region aimed at placating protesters and possibly restarting the project. The continuous negative sentiment detected by RepRisk in 2011 made the company's Reputational Risk Index (RRI) sharply increase during the 12 month period. In January, Buenaventura's RRI was 8, by December it had reached its peak with a score of 54, denoting a high risk exposure for the company. RepRisk Index for Compania de Minas Buenaventura RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 8 of 13 7. (EQUAL) BARRICK GOLD CORP In 2011, Barrick Gold has been the focus of several reports and news headlines due to the human rights abuses allegedly occurring at its mines. Multiple claims of sexual abuse, beatings and murders have been linked to its security staff. Those affected by environmental destruction, health problems, and loss of land and livelihoods have also achieved a media presence, publicizing their complaints against the company. In Papua New Guinea, gang rapes were allegedly carried out at Barrick Gold's Porgera mine, for which the company was encouraged to fire several employees after pressure from human rights groups. Its security forces have also been accused of extrajudicial killings and beatings, usually of illegal miners trying to make a living on the mine's periphery. There have also been allegations that the mine is causing extensive environmental damage to forests and farmland, and has taken land required by locals for their livelihoods. In addition, six million tons of tailings from the mine have allegedly been discharged into the Porgera River. African Barrick Gold, which is largely owned by Barrick Gold, has also been embroiled in allegations of sexual assault levelled against the company's security guards at its North Mara gold mine in Tanzania. This scandal followed another incident where seven intruders were allegedly shot dead at the mine after 800 people stormed the project. The action was sparked due to the forced relocation of 10,000 families, the loss of farmlands and livelihoods, and the ongoing poisoning of local residents. The Chilean and Argentinian governments have been accused of drawing up a favorable tax treaty for Barrick Gold's Pascua Lama mine, which straddles the border of the two countries. The project allegedly violates OECD and Equator Principles due to impacts on indigenous peoples and their livelihoods, breaches national and international laws, and has reportedly damaged and depleted glaciers. It has also been accused of a lack of transparency, falsely obtained land titles, corruption in supplier contracts, and non-compliance with environmental legislation. In addition, there have been 16 worker deaths at the mine, and the operations have been accused of failing to benefit the local community.

The Bajo Segura Santa Lucia waste treatment facility, used by Barrick's Veladero gold mine in Argentina, has

allegedly been releasing an illegal discharge into streams. The construction of an electric transmission line, to power Barrick Gold's Pueblo Viejo mine in the Dominican Republic, has drawn criticism concerning its impact on the Nizao and Banilejo river basins. Over 5,000 people were allegedly displaced in order to make room for the mine's tailings dam. In addition, experts have voiced concerns that the dam could collapse or overflow, potentially contaminating a branch of the Yuli River. In the US, Native American activists have legally challenged the expansion of Barrick Gold's Cortez Hills mine in Nevada, claiming it will damage the mountains by pumping out 4,100 gallons of water a minute to keep the open pit dry for the mining operations. There are also fears it will pollute the air and dry up groundwater. RepRisk Index for Barrick Gold Corp RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 9 of 13 9. (EQUAL) ANGLO AMERICAN PLC Anglo American faced criticism across the globe in 2011 for both its current and proposed mining projects. The year saw protests at many of the company's sites due to concerns about worker safety as well as a great deal of opposition to its plans for new projects that would allegedly affect local and indigenous communities as well as result in detrimental impacts on the environment. Anglo American's joint venture with Xstrata and Mitsui & Co at the Collahuasi mine in Chile proved very controversial throughout the year. Over twenty labor unions accused the companies of serious acts of retaliation against union leaders following a series of strikes. Additionally, the company was one of the key investors in the HidroAysen Dam, a project that sparked violent protest across the country when it was granted approval The project would allegedly flood 6,000 hectares of rare forest, river valleys, national parks and farmland. The company's Peruvian operations also saw strong opposition this year. The Quellaveco Copper Mine was criticised due to concerns about heavy usage of scarce water supplies. Likewise, its proposed Michiquillay Mine faced protests from residents who sought better compensation and feared it would damage the local environment. In Colombia, the company is part-owner of the highly controversial Cerrejon Mine and continued to attract strong criticism. In the mine's 32 years of operation, communities of Afro-Colombians, indig enous groups and campesinos claim to have been constantly struggling against displacement, human rights violations by paramilitary forces, and for the protection of their natural resources. In North America, the Pebble Mine (proposed by a consortium that includes Anglo American, Northern Dynasty Minerals, and Rio Tinto) faced strong opposition in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska in 2011. Opponents have claimed it will produce approximately 10 billion tons of toxic waste and have expressed serious concerns about the impacts on ecosystems and landscapes. These concerns are due to the proposed underground mining operations that would be located between Lake Clark National Park and Lake Illiamana, the largest fresh water body in Alaska and source of the salmon-rich Kvichak River. Furthermore, local

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150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt indigenous groups have voiced concerns over the impact the project would have on their traditional way of life. In South Africa, Anglo American was one of several mining companies whose workers, led by the National Union of Mine Workers, demonstrated against alleged poor safety standards in an effort to secure a reduction in mining fatalities. Reportedly, 3,500 miners submitted a memorandum of concerns to officials in Johannesburg. Anglo American also faced a lawsuit by 18 ex-employees of the President Steyn Gold Mine, owned by one of its former subsidiaries. The plaintiffs claim that the company knowingly exposed them to silica dust, which led to respiratory illnesses, including silicosis and tuberculosis. The 18 cases were chosen to represent the circumstances of tens of thousands of former mineworkers who have allegedly uffered as a result of working for Anglo American. RepRisk Index for Anglo American PLC RepRisk<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark RepRisk AG, February 2012 10 of 13 9. (EQUAL) VEDANTA RESOURCES PLC British mining group Vedanta was harshly criticized in 2011 for its mining projects in several countries including India and Zambia. Campaigners from various international NGOs disrupted the company's Annual General Meeting in July, criticizing Vedanta for its alleged poor environmental and safety record. disregard for human rights and pollution from its factories. In India, Vedanta's proposed Niymagiri mine and a refinery expansion in the state of Orissa have been challenged by local residents and international NGOs such as Amnesty International. The company has been accused of undermining human rights by limiting access to health and water. Local indigenous communities have consistently protested against the project, claiming that it would further pollute their land and water. The indigenous Dongria Kondh tribe considers the Orissa land sacred and believes that this project could threaten their survival. According to local accounts, a pond storing waste for a Vedanta Aluminium refinery in Orissa overflowed in May into the Vamsadhara River, contaminating nearby water facilities. Allegedly, the spillage of thick red waste, known as red mud, spilled into water sources which had been the source of water for drinking, bathing and washing for locals. Sesa Goa, a Vedanta subsidiary, has been repeatedly criticized for reported illegal mining and funding political parties in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. In July, Vedanta Resources and Cairn Energy announced a deal where Vedanta will purchase Cairn Energy India's investments for USD 9 billion. Activists staged a protest outside Cairn Energy's office in the UK claiming that Vedanta should not be allowed to acquire Cairn Energy India. Protesters stated that Vedanta had a poor environmental and social track record in India. In Zambia, Vedanta has been repeatedly criticized for the actions of its subsidiary, Konkola Coppper Mine, which polluted the drinking water of more than 2,000 residents with effluents discharged from its mining operations. The Lusaka High Court fined the company USD 2 million. RepRisk Index for Vedanta

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## METHODOLOGY

RepRisk special reports are compiled using information from the RepRisk database, which consists of criticism of companies' environmental, social and governance performance. The RepRisk database currently contains criticism on more than 23,500 private and publicly listed companies. RepRisk analysts monitor the issues related to environmental, social and governance risk across a broad stakeholder audience of NGOs, academics, media, politicians, regulators and communities. Once the negative news has been identified with advanced search algorithms and analyzed for its novelty, relevance and severity,

risk analysts enter an original summary into the database and link it to the companies and projects in

question. No article is entered twice unless it has been escalated to a more influential source, contains a significant development, or has not appeared for the past 6 weeks. This helps to ensure the balanced and objective rating and weighting of the negative news, and thus the company's quantitative measure of risk exposure, the RepRisk Index (RRI). The RRI measures the risk to a company's reputation, not its actual reputation in general.

RepRisk objectively monitors the level of criticism to which a company is exposed. All data is collected and processed through a strictly rule-based methodology. Controversial issues covered include breaches of national or international legislation, controversial products and services, environmental footprint and climate change, human rights and community relations, labor conditions and employee relations as well as corruption and money laundering. In particular, all principles of the UN Global Compact are addressed.

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ABOUT REPRISK

RepRisk is the leading provider of dynamic business intelligence on Environmental, Social

150312\_Top\_10\_Most\_Controversial\_Mining\_Companies\_RepRisk1.txt and Governance risks (ESG). Our analysts monitor issues in accordance with established international standards, and identify published negative sentiment from a wide range of stakeholders on an unlimited universe of companies and projects.

RepRisk's business intelligence allows companies and financial institutions to proactively assess ESG issues that may present financial, reputational and compliance risks.

The RepRisk application includes a variety of features enabling our clients to monitor risk trends over time, create customized watch lists, tailor alert services, and more.

The RepRisk tool plays an integral role in financial risk management, enterprise reputation risk management and compliance with internal and international standards.

RepRisk covers all major business languages and its database currently includes over 23,500 companies, 5,300 projects, 4,100 NGOs and 3,600 governmental bodies. It is updated continuously and the

number of entities is growing daily.

RepRisk business intelligence is now available at 6Telekurs, Interactive Data and Sungard terminals.

Contact Information

For more information about the RepRisk tool or this report on the Most Controversial Mining Companies for 2011, please contact media@reprisk.com, or visit our website: www.reprisk.com.

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