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Groups Recognized for Pollution Prevention

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its partner, the Utah Pollution Prevention Association, on Tuesday recognized Rio, Tinto/Kennecott Utah Copper, Swire Coca-Cola and Xanterra Zion Canyon Lodge for outstanding efforts to reduce pollution.

Rio Tinto/Kennecott Utah Copper was honored for implementing a program in 2009 that reduces idling time and increases fuel efficiency for 68 large trucks at Kennecott's Bingham Canyon mine. Since that time, the company has achieved an associated savings of over 49,000 gallons of diesel fuel and a reduction in emission of 497 metric tons of greenhouse gases and 18,043 pounds of nitrogen oxides.

Swire Coca-Cola has reduced its water consumption by over 40 million gallons in 2009 through a number of programs including the reuse of non-sanitary water. It also has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 1,200 metric tons through energy efficiency projects and upgrading to hybrid and natural gas vehicles. In addition, over 1,200 metric tons of materials were recycled in 2009.

Xanterra Zion Canyon Lodge eliminated the sale of bottled water at their facility while providing guests with spring water in re-useable containers promoting the value of the program through education. Xanterra has also moved to natural gas, electrical and solar powered vehicles at Zion Lodge.

"These accomplishments are inspiring," said Amanda Smith, executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality. "I believe they will serve as a model for others, including DEQ, to achieve greater efficiencies through innovative solutions."

The Utah Pollution Prevention Association, a nonprofit organization made up of Utah businesses and institutions dedicated to reducing pollution through practical, cost-saving methods, each year recognizes the achievements of businesses that make outstanding efforts to reduce risk to the environment and public health.

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