

Cerro Colorado Overcomes The Effects of June's Earthquake In Northern Chile

6 October 2005

Compañía Minera Cerro Colorado informs that due to the earthquake that affected Chile's First Region on June 13th, the company forecasts copper cathode production for calendar year ended 31 December 2005 between a range of 90,000 and 95,000 tons.

"Cerro Colorado's crushing plants have been operating at full capacity since August 11, 2005. However, according to our production forecast, it will take until December 2005 to ramp up to full capacity production due to the natural delay in obtaining the copper from the leach pads" said Diego Hernández, President of BHP Billiton Base Metals.

Copper cathode production at Cerro Colorado for calendar year ended 31 December 2004 reached 118,000 tons.

Diego Hernández also mentioned that community support due to the earthquake, including rescue operations, housing and others, plus ongoing support for the regional reconstruction program will exceed US\$ 1 million. "Employees of Cerro Colorado have shown how BHP Billiton wants to live the principles and values of our Charter, through supporting our neighboring communities to face these challenging times by building a common future".

Cerro Colorado is 100% owned by BHP Billiton.

Santiago, October 4, 2005