

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
May 03, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6

-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

April

26, 2006

BHP Billiton Plc

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

26 April 2006
Number 10/06

BHP BILLITON ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY DECLINE TO CANNINGTON PRODUCTION

Following an assessment of ground conditions, BHP Billiton will accelerate a programme of decline and stope access rehabilitation at the Cannington silver-lead-zinc mine in Australia from May to November 2006. This will impact production in the southern zone of the mine. The northern zone mining activities will remain unaffected.

The primary reason for the programme is to ensure the safety of employees and contractors and is aligned with BHP Billiton's commitment to Zero Harm. In addition, this programme will reduce ground stresses that have the potential to limit long term production and should enable higher production levels than would otherwise be the case.

Production is expected to return to normal levels by early 2007. The overall impact is expected to see a reduction in ore milled of approximately 20% over the remainder of FY2006 and FY2007. This will predominantly impact sales in the first half of FY2007.

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

Australia

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria
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Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United
Kingdom
Telephone +44 20 7802 4000 Facsimile +44 20 7802 4111

The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 26 April 2006

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Company Secretary