

BHP BILLITON LTD

Form 6-K

February 15, 2002

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HIGH COURT ALLOWS UTAH TAX APPEAL

BHP Billiton Limited today announced the Australian High Court has allowed by consent its appeal against the majority decision of the Full Federal Court, which was handed down in favour of the Australian Tax Office on 18 October 2000.

The dispute concerned the deductibility of financing costs paid to the General Electric Company in connection with BHP Billiton Limited's acquisition of the Utah Group in the early 1980's, and the validity of a related assessment.

As a result of the High Court order, an amount of US\$85 million (A\$166 million) will be refunded to BHP Billiton Limited, together with associated interest. This amount had previously been paid by BHP Billiton Limited and recorded as a non-current asset, pending resolution of the dispute.

Further information can be found on our Internet site:
<http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia