

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
February 18, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Date of

17 February 2005

BHP Billiton Plc

Registration Number 3196209

Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH

United Kingdom

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

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| Form 20-F | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Form 40-F | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|

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

Date 17 February 2005
Number 07/05

SALE OF SAMANCOR CHROME

BHP Billiton and Anglo American plc ("Anglo American") announced today that they have reached agreement for the sale of Samancor Chrome to the Kermas Group for an enterprise value of US\$469 million. The sale will be effective 1 April 2005, subject to obtaining regulatory approvals.

The Kermas Group is a producer of and trader in ferrochrome and chrome chemicals, with activities in Russia, Germany and Turkey.

The Wonderkop joint venture and Palmiet Ferrochrome plant are excluded from this transaction. Samancor Chrome operates entirely in South Africa, and includes Eastern Chrome Mines in Mpumalanga and Western Chrome Mines in Northwest Provinces. It also has alloy plants in Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. It markets product across the globe and in total employs some 5 500 people.

Samancor Chrome is a wholly owned subsidiary of Samancor, owned 60% by BHP Billiton, also the operator and 40% by Anglo American.

For further information contact:

BHP Billiton:

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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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
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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
/s/ KAREN WOOD

Karen Wood
Title: Company Secretary
Date:

17 February 2005