

BHP BILLITON PLC  
Form 6-K  
February 27, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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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

31 December 2003

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.

Form 20-F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Form 40-F	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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"/>
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If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

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Date                    31 December 2003

Number 41/03

### BHP BILLITON SETTLES PIPELINE LITIGATION

BHP Billiton today announced that it was part of a consortium that had reached a settlement with Dalmine SpA with respect to a claim brought against Dalmine in April 1998. The claim followed the failure of an underwater pipeline installed subsea in 1994 in the Liverpool Bay area of the UK continental shelf. The pipeline failed in 1996, two months after being commissioned.

The terms of the settlement provide that a total of Pounds 108 million is to be paid to the consortium.

BHP Billiton is a 46.1% shareholder in the Liverpool Bay development.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: <http://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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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

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#### 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

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Karen Wood  
Title: Company Secretary  
Date:

31 December 2003