

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
April 26, 2007

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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

24, 2007

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**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

3000 AUSTRALIA

(Address of principal executive offices)

**BHP BILLITON PLC**

(REG. NO. 3196209)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

ENGLAND AND WALES

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,

UNITED KINGDOM

(Address of principal executive offices)

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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 [x] No

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

24 April 2007  
Number 13/07

**BHP BILLITON QUARTERLY REPORT ON  
EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

This report covers the company's exploration and development activities for the quarter ended 31 March 2007. Unless otherwise stated, BHP Billiton's interest in the projects referred to in this report is 100 per cent and references to project schedules are based on calendar years.

**DEVELOPMENT**

During the quarter, the Company announced the sanctioning of the Rapid Growth Project 4 (RGP4) at its Western Australia Iron Ore operations. RGP4's progress will now be reported each quarter.

Also during the quarter, the Company finalised the acquisition of the Genghis Khan oil and gas development in the Gulf of Mexico. Genghis Khan's progress will now be reported each quarter.

Petroleum Projects				
Genghis Khan 44%	365	Mid CY07	55,000 barrels of oil per day	Acquisition completed. Rig to be mobilised by May 2007 to complete the existing well.
<b>Oil/Gas</b>				
Atlantis South (US) 44%	1,500	Under review, forecast 2H CY07	200,000 barrels of oil and 180 million cubic	Seven development wells have been drilled with six of these wells having been

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<b>Oil/Gas</b>			feet of gas per day	completed at the end of March. The Balder installation vessel has recommenced installing flow lines.
Neptune (US) 35%  <b>Oil/Gas</b>	300	End CY07	50,000 barrels of oil and 50 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule however drilling and construction costs are under review. The subsea oil and gas export and all well flow lines have been installed. Four wells have been drilled and completions are commencing.
Stybarrow (Australia) 50%  <b>Oil/Gas</b>	300	Q1 CY08	80,000 barrels of oil per day	On schedule however drilling and construction costs are under review. Two producing wells and two injector wells have been drilled and completed. Drilling of the fourth producing well has commenced. The FPSO hull has been delivered and the integration of topside modules and the mooring turret are progressing. Offshore installation activities are underway.
North West Shelf Angel (Australia) 16.67%  <b>Oil/Gas</b>	200	End CY08	800 million cubic feet gas per day	On budget and schedule. Topsides and jacket fabrication progressing.
North West Shelf Train 5 (Australia) 16.67%  <b>LNG</b>	300	Late CY08	LNG processing capacity of 4.2 million tpa	On schedule and revised budget as advised by the Operator. 10 of 17 module shipments have been received. Last module shipment is scheduled for May 2007.
Shenzi (US) 44%  <b>Oil/Gas</b>	1,940	Mid CY09	100,000 barrels of oil and 50 million cubic feet gas	On budget and schedule. Hull and topsides fabrication continues.

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			per day	
Minerals Projects				
Alumar - Refinery Expansion (Brazil) 36%  <b>Alumina</b>	725	Q2 CY09	2 million tpa	On revised budget and schedule. Detailed engineering is 60% complete, procurement is 35% complete and construction stands at 10% complete.
Koala Underground (Canada) 80%  <b>Diamonds</b>	200	End CY07	3,300 tonnes per day ore processed	On schedule and budget. During the quarter, underground tunnelling continued and the mine ventilation facilities were completed. Procurement is well advanced and engineering is complete.
Ravensthorpe (Australia) 100%  <b>Nickel</b>	2,200	Q1 CY08	Up to 50,000 tpa contained nickel in concentrate	On revised schedule and budget. Construction has passed 90% complete with activities now focused on piping completion and electrical and instrumentation installation. Pre-commissioning and commissioning of various areas including the Compressor Plant and Ore Preparation facilities is in progress. First ore was delivered during the quarter.
Yabulu (Australia) 100%  <b>Nickel</b>	556	Q1 CY08	45,000 tpa nickel	The Yabulu Expansion is mechanically complete and commissioning will start ahead of delivery of feed from Ravensthorpe.
Iron Ore (Western Australia) RGP3 85%  <b>Iron Ore</b>	1,300	Q4 CY07	20 million tpa	On schedule and budget. Engineering and procurement activities are essentially complete, with construction activities now 53% complete.

Iron Ore (Western Australia) RGP4 86.2%	1,850	1H CY10	26 million tpa	The project was approved on 23 March 2007 and work has commenced.
<b>Iron Ore</b>				
Samarco Third Pellet Plant (Brazil) 50%	590	1H CY08	7.6 million tpa	On schedule and budget. The pipeline is 75% complete with total project progress being 61% complete.
<b>Iron Ore</b>				

### MINERALS EXPLORATION

BHP Billiton continued to pursue global exploration opportunities for key commodities of interest utilising both in-house capabilities and the Junior Alliance Programme.

Grassroots exploration continued on diamond targets in Angola, Canada and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on copper targets in Australia, Chile, Mongolia, the DRC and USA; and on nickel targets in Australia, Russia and Africa. Exploration for iron ore, coal, potash and bauxite was undertaken in a number of regions including Australia, Brazil, Canada and West Africa.

For the nine months ended 31 March 2007, BHP Billiton spent US\$227 million on minerals exploration of which US\$166 million was expensed.

### PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

Exploration and appraisal wells drilled during the quarter or in the process of drilling as at 31 March 2007.

Shenzi-6	Gulf of Mexico Green Canyon Block 609	44% BHP Billiton and operator	Hydrocarbons encountered. Additional appraisal required. Plugged and abandoned.
Shenzi-6 - Side Track 1	Gulf of Mexico Green Canyon Block 610	44% BHP Billiton and operator	Drilling ahead.
Puma-2	Gulf of Mexico Green Canyon	29.805% BHP Billiton (BP operator)	Drilling suspended. Additional appraisal

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	Block 821		required. Temporarily plugged and abandoned.
Puma-3	Gulf of Mexico Green Canyon Block 866	29.805% BHP Billiton (BP operator)	Drilling ahead.
Torosa-2	Browse Basin Western Australia WA-30-R	8.33% BHP Billiton (Woodside operator)	Hydrocarbons encountered. Under evaluation.  Plugged and abandoned.
Sculptor-2	Dampier Basin Western Australia WA-24-R	16.67% BHP Billiton (Woodside operator)	Hydrocarbons encountered. Under evaluation. Plugged and abandoned.
Sculptor-3	Dampier Basin Western Australia WA-24-R	16.67% BHP Billiton (Woodside operator)	Hydrocarbons encountered. Under evaluation. Plugged and abandoned.
Calliance-2	Browse Basin Western Australia WA-28-R	20% BHP Billiton (Woodside operator)	Drilling ahead.
Ruby-2	Trinidad and Tobago Block 3 (a)	25.5% BHP Billiton and operator	Dry hole. Plugged and abandoned.

Petroleum exploration expenditure for the nine months ended 31 March 2007 was US\$265 million. The amount expended was US\$206 million which includes US\$43 million of exploration expenditure previously capitalised.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: [www.bhpbilliton.com](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  
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**BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209**

Registered in England and Wales

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Kingdom

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**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 Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 24 April 2007

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Group Company Secretary