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MERGER WITH GLOUCESTER COAL – TAKEOVERS PANEL PROCEEDINGS

Whitehaven Coal Limited (“Whitehaven”) notes the decision made today by the Takeovers Panel (“Panel”) in response to the application dated 27 February 2009 from Noble Group Limited in relation to the proposed merger of Whitehaven and Gloucester Coal Limited (“Gloucester”).

The Panel has made a declaration of unacceptable circumstances in relation to the proposed merger of Whitehaven and Gloucester. The Panel is now seeking submissions from the parties in relation to the potential orders it should make as a result of the declaration.

Whitehaven is considering its options in relation to the declaration, including making submissions in relation to the potential orders.

The Whitehaven board continues to believe that the proposed merger of Whitehaven and Gloucester will deliver significant benefits to both groups of shareholders.

Whitehaven will keep shareholders informed as to further developments with the Panel proceedings and the proposed merger with Gloucester.

For further information, please contact:

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