



4 October 2006

### **Pre-close Statement**

During the first half of 2006/07 RPC expects to deliver a profit performance comparable with last year on a like-for-like basis despite trading conditions made challenging by increasing costs and shortfalls in call-offs from some of our major supply contracts. The plants recently acquired from Crown have, as expected, generated trading losses in the period but we are confident that their medium term prospects are good and that they will make an excellent addition to the Group.

Since mid-September, the prospects for some amelioration in our input costs have improved, and we also look forward to higher demand levels from a number of important customers. Consequently we anticipate progress in the second half and in the year as a whole.

- Ends -

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