

# RIO NARCEA GOLD MINES, LTD

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **RIO NARCEA ANNOUNCES FINAL RESULTS FROM THE INFILL DRILLING PROGRAM AT THE SALAVE GOLD PROJECT INCLUDING A HIGH GRADE INTERSECTION OF 33.9 G/T GOLD OVER 39.8 METERS**

**Toronto, Canada** – Rio Narcea Gold Mines, Ltd. (“Rio Narcea” or the “Company”) reports the completion of the infill drilling program for the Salave gold project with favourable assay results from 30 holes. The infill drilling program at Salave included 70 holes totaling 14,900 meters. An additional 1,500 meters were drilled in six geotechnical and hydrological holes. Complete assay results from the final 30 holes are reported in Table 1 at the end of this report. The best intercepts, including a high grade intercept in Hole RN 70, are listed below:

Hole #	From	To	Thickness (m)	Gold (g/t)
<b>RN41</b>	198.40	223.60	25.20	6.1
Including	208.15	218.70	10.65	10.5
<b>RN42</b>	189.65	203.45	13.80	6.8
	215.05	230.40	15.35	10.8
<b>RN43</b>	69.85	78.45	8.60	10.3
	137.70	157.50	19.80	7.7
<b>RN48</b>	63.95	142.50	78.55	3.3
Including	127.55	140.75	13.20	7.6
<b>RN49</b>	123.10	165.75	42.65	2.7
Including	145.45	149.50	4.05	9.6
<b>RN50</b>	90.50	120.90	30.40	10.6
Including	109.75	118.75	9.00	32.0
<b>RN60</b>	87.40	119.40	32.00	3.1
Including	95.50	98.90	3.40	12.6
<b>RN68</b>	193.40	225.80	32.40	2.8
<b>RN69</b>	74.05	84.60	10.55	9.3
	127.45	188.95	61.50	4.9
	282.00	293.00	11.00	10.3
<b>RN70</b>	191.20	224.50	33.30	8.7
	233.25	270.35	37.10	15.7
Including	252.20	270.35	18.15	29.3
	281.00	302.65	21.65	37.7

Hole RN 70 intersected high grade mineralization that assayed 33.9 g/t gold over 39.8 meters in two zones between the down hole depths of 252.2 and 302.7 meters. The hole was vertical, and offset 25 meters from existing holes on the project. The intercept was 20 meters south of hole L9705, which previously intersected a grade thickness of approximately 1,000 g/t x m. The RN 70 intercept has a total grade thickness of 1,798 g/t x m, making it the best ever drilled on the project. The high grade intercept in RN70 dips at 30 degrees to the west and has an estimated true thickness of 34 meters. The true thickness for all other intercepts reported in this release has not been determined.

Efforts have also been directed towards completing various studies that will form part of the feasibility study. To date, hydrological, archaeological, geotechnical and environmental baseline studies, required to support the bankable feasibility study, have either been initiated or completed. Final site restoration plans are expected to be submitted for comment during the second quarter. Permitting work and preliminary applications are underway in parallel with the feasibility study work

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*Quality control (QC) for sample preparation and analysis of samples for the Salave infill drilling program has been designed by independent consultant, Alan Noble of O.R.E. Reserves Engineering, Colorado, U.S.A., to meet or exceed the requirements of National Instrument 43-101 (Standards of Disclosure for Mineral projects). Analytical analysis for the drill samples was completed at Rio Narcea's Laboratories. This QC program includes the use of blanks, duplicates and standard reference samples, in conjunction with systematic check assays and was conducted by ITMA Laboratories of Oviedo, Spain, an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited facility. The Qualified Person as defined by NI 43-101 for the drilling program is Eugene Spiering, Vice President of Exploration for Rio Narcea.*

*Forward-looking Statements: Some statements in this press release contain forward-looking information. These statements address future events and conditions and, as such, involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results could be significantly different from those projected.*

Table 1. Diamond drill results of the Salave gold project (The previous drill results were released on September 17, 2004 and January 11, 2005).

Hole #	From	To	Thickness (m)	Gold (g/t)
<b>RN41</b>	148.10	152.10	4.00	1.5
	165.25	171.50	6.25	2.2
	198.40	223.60	25.20	6.1
	Including 208.15	218.70	10.55	11.3
<b>RN42</b>	90.30	95.25	4.95	3.2
	129.70	139.60	9.90	2.1
	171.75	178.25	6.50	2.7
	189.65	203.45	13.80	6.8
	215.05	230.40	15.35	10.8
	234.45	249.30	14.85	2.6
<b>RN43</b>	52.00	59.50	7.50	1.6
	69.85	78.45	8.60	10.3
	106.80	109.40	2.60	11.3
	137.70	157.50	19.80	7.7
	174.45	177.60	3.15	3.7
<b>RN44</b>	18.25	24.15	5.90	1.7
	71.45	77.75	6.30	5.1
	102.65	105.90	3.25	4.0
<b>RN45</b> Including	109.25	127.90	18.65	2.7
	123.50	127.90	4.40	6.7
	142.10	149.80	7.70	4.6
	Including 145.00	148.30	3.30	8.6
<b>RN46</b>	86.30	106.15	19.85	3.7
	145.30	147.90	2.60	4.4
	165.30	171.70	6.40	2.4
<b>RN47</b>	28.50	64.40	35.90	2.6
	101.25	106.00	4.75	2.1
	112.85	129.70	16.85	2.1
	135.05	157.50	22.45	1.8
	197.80	208.95	11.15	2.0
<b>RN48</b> Including	34.00	38.00	4.00	1.8
	63.95	142.50	78.55	3.3
	127.55	140.75	13.20	7.6
	150.35	156.50	6.15	1.5
	188.20	219.20	31.00	2.1
<b>RN49</b> Including	12.00	24.00	12.00	1.7
	123.10	165.75	42.65	2.7
	145.45	149.50	4.05	9.6
<b>RN50</b> Including	34.10	37.30	3.20	10.0
	63.55	73.90	10.35	1.3
	90.50	120.90	30.40	10.6
	109.75	118.75	9.00	32.0
<b>RN51</b>	140.55	142.35	1.80	5.0
	177.35	191.55	14.20	1.3
	205.40	236.20	30.80	2.1

Hole #	From	To	Thickness (m)	Gold (g/t)
Including	225.45	230.60	5.15	6.0
	241.00	259.10	18.10	2.4
<b>RN52</b>	13.50	39.20	25.70	1.9
	44.85	55.50	10.65	1.6
	65.35	80.00	14.65	4.6
	85.30	93.30	8.00	4.1
	131.50	153.60	22.10	2.7
Including	132.50	141.30	8.80	4.5
<b>RN53</b>	No intercepts above 1 g/t gold			
<b>RN54</b> Including	14.00	36.00	22.00	1.9
	20.00	24.00	4.00	4.6
	111.00	130.60	19.60	3.2
	138.80	150.00	11.20	1.3
<b>RN55</b>	135.40	161.60	26.20	1.7
	202.85	214.05	11.20	1.8
	290.50	302.00	11.50	3.1
<b>RN56</b>	24.60	25.65	1.05	4.3
	31.50	42.90	11.40	2.4
	49.85	54.75	4.90	3.3
	63.15	66.30	3.15	2.3
<b>RN57</b>	92.00	101.00	9.00	1.6
	165.35	168.00	2.65	4.1
	191.25	227.10	35.85	2.1
<b>RN58</b> Including	19.20	43.40	24.20	2.0
	50.60	80.30	29.70	2.2
	70.70	77.60	6.90	4.1
	85.05	87.75	2.70	4.8
<b>RN59</b> Including	160.25	195.40	35.15	1.4
	186.50	191.10	4.60	4.5
	209.50	221.85	12.35	1.3
	241.60	252.30	10.70	1.2
<b>RN60</b> Including	54.25	56.30	14.25	1.0
	77.80	82.80	5.00	1.1
	87.40	119.40	32.00	3.1
	95.50	98.90	3.40	12.6
<b>RN61</b>	21.50	31.20	9.70	1.3
	38.70	44.10	5.40	1.4
	59.55	65.75	6.20	1.3
	75.20	79.50	4.30	5.5
	144.00	148.30	4.30	2.8
<b>RN62</b>	103.70	107.30	3.60	4.0
	140.80	142.85	2.05	1.2
	188.55	192.80	4.25	3.9
<b>RN63</b>	26.20	33.60	7.40	7.5
	75.00	87.15	12.15	1.4

Hole #	From	To	Thickness (m)	Gold (g/t)
	106.30	109.10	2.80	3.3
<b>RN64</b>	30.00	55.65	25.65	2.7
Including	41.50	43.40	1.90	12.9
<b>RN65</b>	87.20	91.65	4.45	5.0
	246.20	251.75	5.55	1.4
<b>RN66</b>	44.90	75.00	30.10	2.1
Including	65.50	68.25	2.75	7.2
<b>RN67</b>	18.20	29.70	11.50	1.9
	71.25	88.00	16.75	3.6
	100.20	112.40	12.20	3.1
	117.05	124.30	7.85	3.7
	211.10	226.00	14.90	3.9
	250.60	268.00	17.40	2.8
<b>RN68</b>	91.40	101.50	10.10	3.2
	168.95	177.80	8.85	1.6
	193.40	225.80	32.40	2.8
<b>RN69</b>	74.05	84.60	10.55	9.3
	127.45	188.95	61.50	4.9
	267.75	272.45	4.70	6.6
	282.00	293.00	11.00	10.3
<b>RN70</b>	78.50	88.15	9.65	2.2
	136.65	167.95	31.30	2.9
	191.20	224.50	33.30	8.7
	233.25	270.35	37.10	15.7
Including	252.20	270.35	18.15	29.3
	281.00	302.65	21.65	37.7