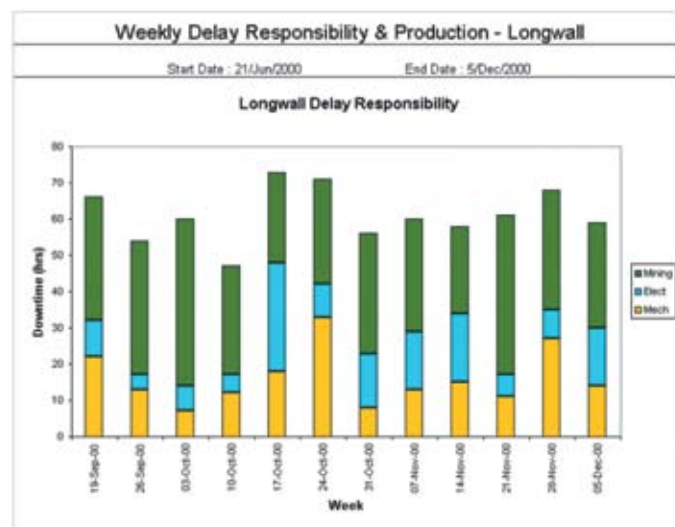


Underground in the Illawarra

BHP Billiton Illawarra produces coal from five underground longwall operations in the area northwest of Wollongong in NSW. The Bulli and Wongawilli coal seams are structurally complex and geochemically diverse.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Integrated production monitoring and reporting
- Ideal to interface to existing control systems
- Ability to publish corporate reports for intranet viewing

Stockpiling and blending the different coals are other crucial factors affecting profitability.

Maptek™ MineSuite™ production monitoring and reporting system was installed across all BHP Billiton Illawarra underground operations, after success at West Cliff and Appin collieries.

MineSuite is a widely applicable system that integrates production monitoring and reporting from various operational processes. The nature of underground longwall mines makes the capture of relevant data difficult. MineSuite acquires data from programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and other instruments controlling and collecting equipment data.

This is typically fed into a SCADA system that manages plant and equipment in real time, and usually logs periodic data and alarms to a database.

A second option is to manually enter data into the system. Once data for a shift has been captured, it can be edited or changed through the Shift Editor, which consists of the Graphical User Interface (GUI), the text selection panel and the data entry panel.

The GUI represents the shift data as coloured rectangles on a timeline. Personnel can view all the processes and equipment monitored, as well as the assignments and delays entered for the shift.

The text selection and data entry panels provide details on the data for a particular process. Reports and output formats are user configurable and soft coded.

MineSuite is ideal to interface to these existing control systems and transform logged data into information to provide comprehensive reporting.

Cross-database reporting allows reports to be developed using information from multiple sites; this is ideal for BHP Billiton Illawarra with MineSuite installed in several underground sites and preparation plants.

Another strong feature of MineSuite is its ability to automatically publish corporate reports in html format and place them on the company intranet for easy viewing.