

Glendell Mine Shaping Up

Glendell Mine is a new open cut coal mine in the Hunter Valley. Maptek™ Vulcan™, used for mine planning, also exports the 'shape files' required for regulatory reporting, saving much time and effort.



'VULCAN HAS MADE A POTENTIALLY TIME CONSUMING PROCESS INTO A SIMPLE ONE...'

Glendell Mine, in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, is owner operated by Xstrata Coal and forms part of the Mt Owen Complex along with the existing Mt Owen Mine, which is owned by Xstrata and operated by Thiess.

Original development consent for Glendell dates back to the 1980s. With changing economic conditions, the project ultimately had three iterations of development consent before mining commenced in April 2008.

Glendell is mined using truck and shovel methods. The mining fleet is comprised of 3 Hitachi EX5500 and 2 EX2500 Excavators, 14 Cat 793D XQ and 9 Cat 789C XQ Rear Dump Trucks and Caterpillar auxiliary equipment.

Coal is delivered to the existing Mt Owen Coal Preparation Plant for washing before being exported from the Port of Newcastle.

Vulcan is the mine planning software used by the Xstrata management team and contractors at Mt Owen Mine, and is applied at Glendell Mine for design and planning, geological modelling, drill and blast design, and survey.

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As with all coal mines in NSW, Glendell is required by the Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation (NSW) to submit spatial mine data to the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Mineral Resources.

Traditionally this took the form of hard copy plans known as the mine Record Tracing or RT. Currently, spatial data must be supplied as electronic files in addition to hard copy plans. >



REPORTING MADE EASY



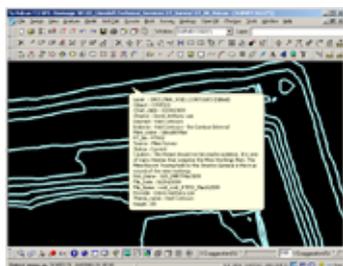
Specify metadata



Attach to contours



Assign metadata dialogue



Display results

The data format and periods for reporting are specified in the 'Survey and Drafting Directions for Mine Surveyors'. Digital data must be submitted every 3 months in an ESRI Shape File format; this is closer to Geographic Information System (GIS) files than typical output from mine planning or survey software.

Along with point, line and polygon data, each file or theme contains metadata - text attributes providing information about the data.

This DPI requirement has led mine planning software providers to add functionality to help operations. Maptek has addressed this need by adding an 'Export Shape File' function in Vulcan.

To export shape files, it is necessary to do some initial setup, specifying which metadata attributes will be included for a

particular file, as well as the format. It is then straightforward to attach metadata to objects and export shape files suitable for submission to the DPI.

For Glendell, it is highly satisfactory to be able to create the required files from within their primary software, without needing to purchase additional 3rd party software, and avoiding the complication of duplicate databases.

Vulcan has made what could potentially be a time consuming process into a simple one. Once the hard work of updating the survey data has been completed, it takes only a short time to prepare files for submission. quantities was also required. 

*Thanks to Derrin Lee
Mining Surveyor,
Glendell Mine*