

Process Improvement: Successful Shutdowns



Score Card

- Over \$11 million USD saved during the first year of implementation.
- 60% improvement in team performance (measured by on-scope, on-time, on-cost).
- 50% reduction in shutdown administrative work load.
- All Injury Frequency Rate (AIFR) improved, advancing a strong safety culture.

Client

The second-largest copper producer in the U.S. has produced more copper than any other mine in the world. Each year its concentrator plant is shutdown a total of 36 times to maintain critical equipment.

Challenge

The shutdown process showed variations in time, cost, and performance despite highly skilled, experienced staff. The length of down time was causing a bottleneck in the overall production process, representing millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Approach

- Produce one successful maintenance cycle—shutdown and restart the concentrator plant.
- Process design and implementation and integration of a new shutdown process with existing systems.
- Project Management Learn & Do to develop robust project plans and implement shutdowns.
- Shutdown process audited and a gap analysis conducted to look for improvement opportunities.