Uphill Mining Backfill Challenges

When Gravity Is Not On Your Side

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Project Engineering III
Kensington Mine

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November 7, 2024

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Introduction

Emilien Charbonneau, Project Engineer III

About Myself

Background

French Canadian engineer from Quebec. Graduated from Polytechnique Montreal. Moved to Alaska in February 2022. Loves Hockey, Hiking, and Fishing.

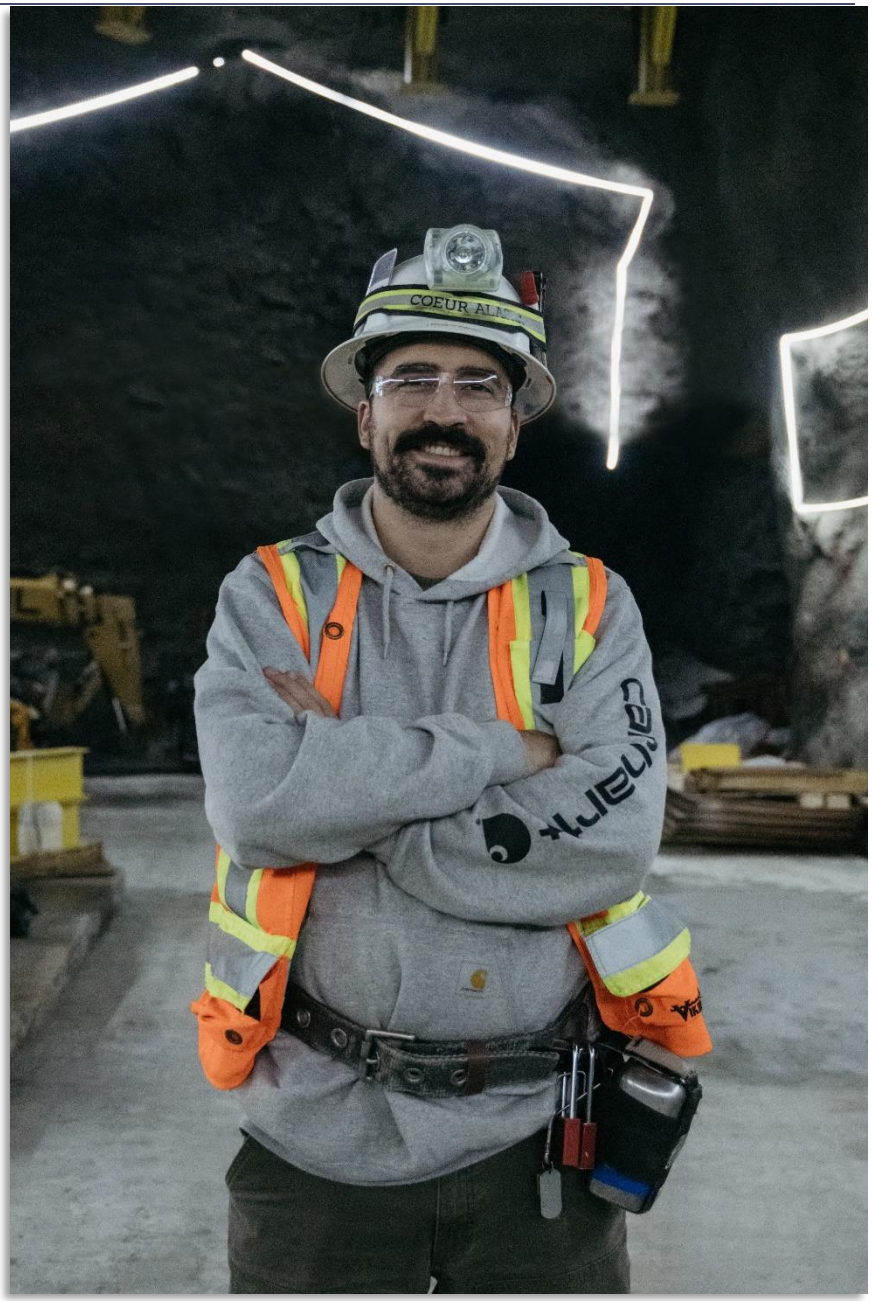
Mining Experience

AgnicoEagle – Meadowbank & Amaruq

- Mobile Maintenance Project Engineer
- Equipment Reliability
- Continuous Improvement

Coeur Alaska – Kensington Mine

- Tech Services Project Engineer
- Backfill Improvement
- New Paste Booster Project Manager
- Underground Project Engineer



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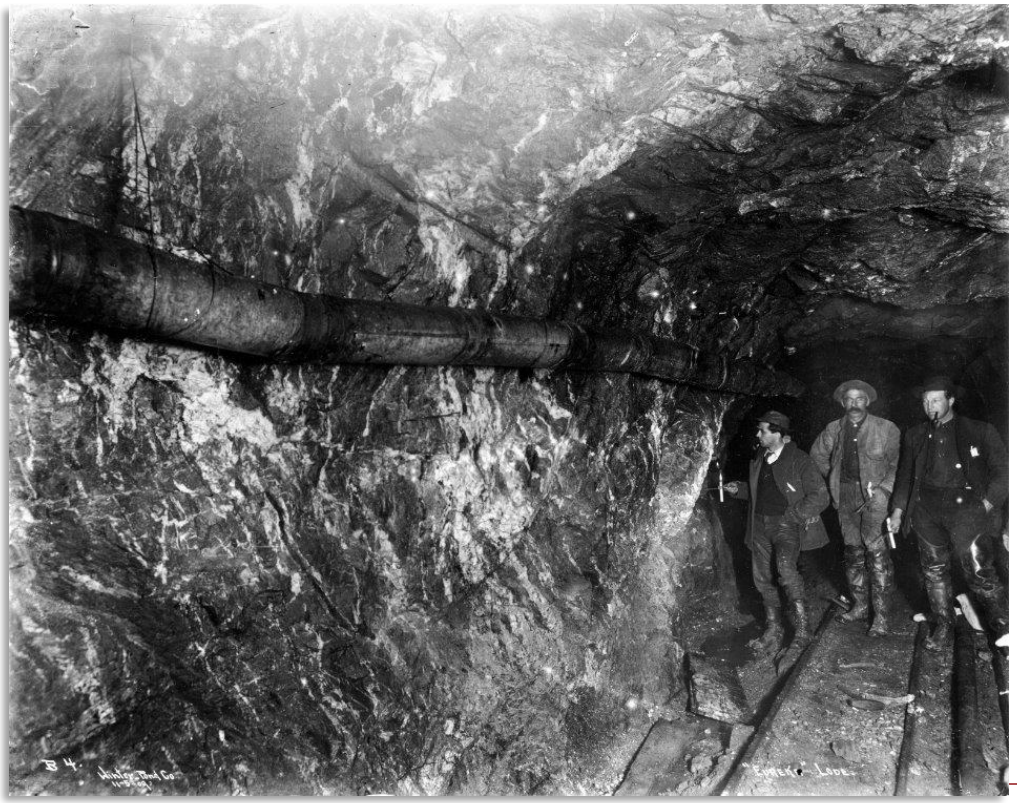
- Coeur Mining is a U.S.-based, well-diversified, growing precious metals producer
  - Kensington gold mine (Alaska)
  - Wharf gold mine (South Dakota)
  - Rochester silver-gold mine (Nevada)
  - Palmarejo gold-silver complex (Mexico)
  - Silvertip polymetallic exploration project (BC)
- Approximately 2,100 employees throughout the organization[1]
- Proudly and responsibly produces the precious metals necessary for modern life

(1) As published by Coeur on February 22, 2024

About Kensington

Underground gold operation located 45 miles north-northwest of Juneau, Alaska.

Part of the Historic Berners Bay Mining District, which has seen over 130 years of resource development.



Left photo: "Eureka" Lode in Kensington Mining Company Mine, 1909. Alaska State Archives, Collection, Winter & Pond Photo Collection, ASL_p87_0496

About Kensington (cont.)

About Kensington (cont.)

Backfill Overview

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Ore-Body Location

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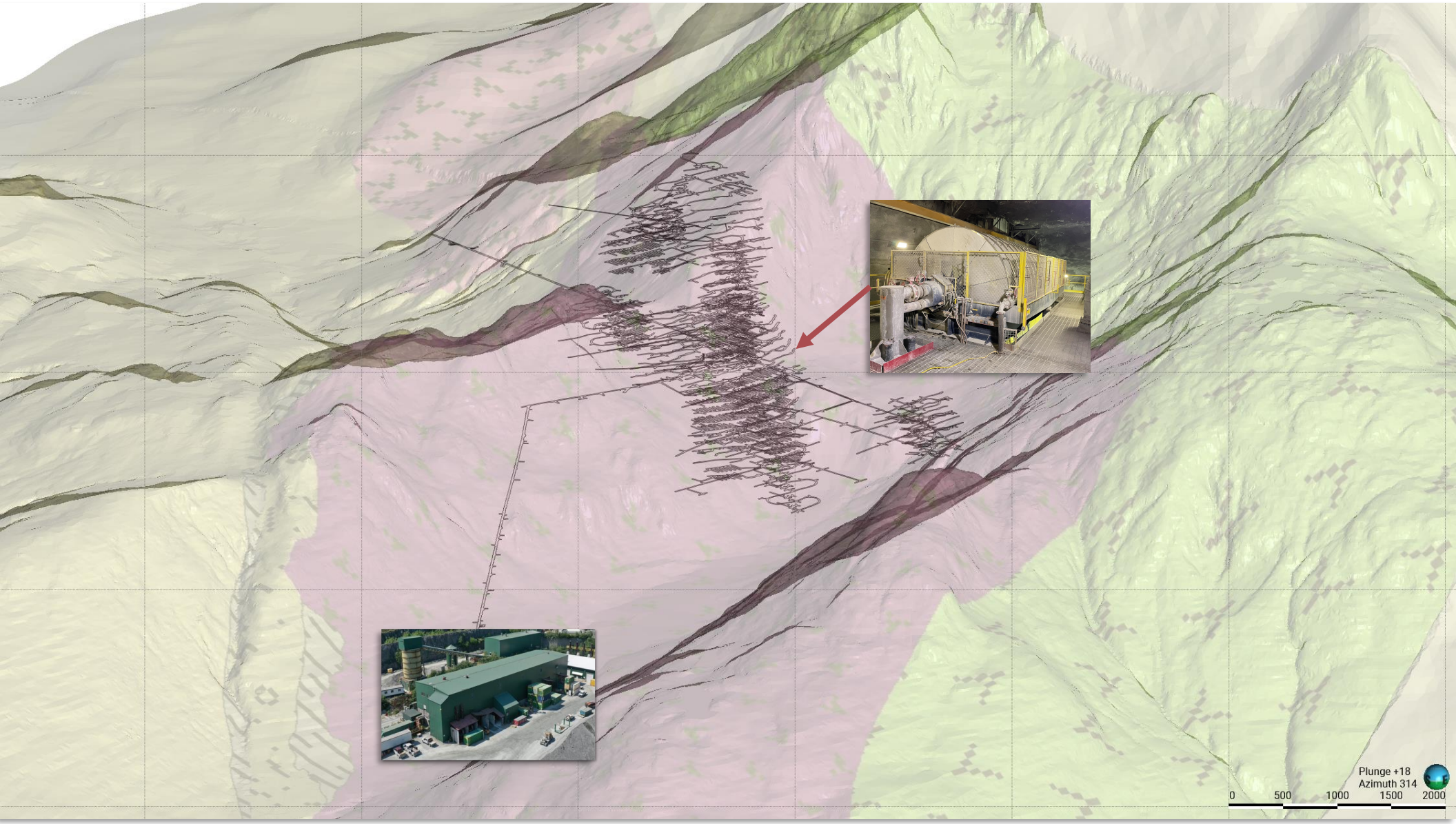

Kensington's Backfill

- Paste Backfill (mine tailings, cement, water)
- 280,000 PasteTons/Year
- Underground Paste plant at 900 ft
- Booster pump station at 1415 ft
- Highest target at 2570 ft

Kensington's Backfill

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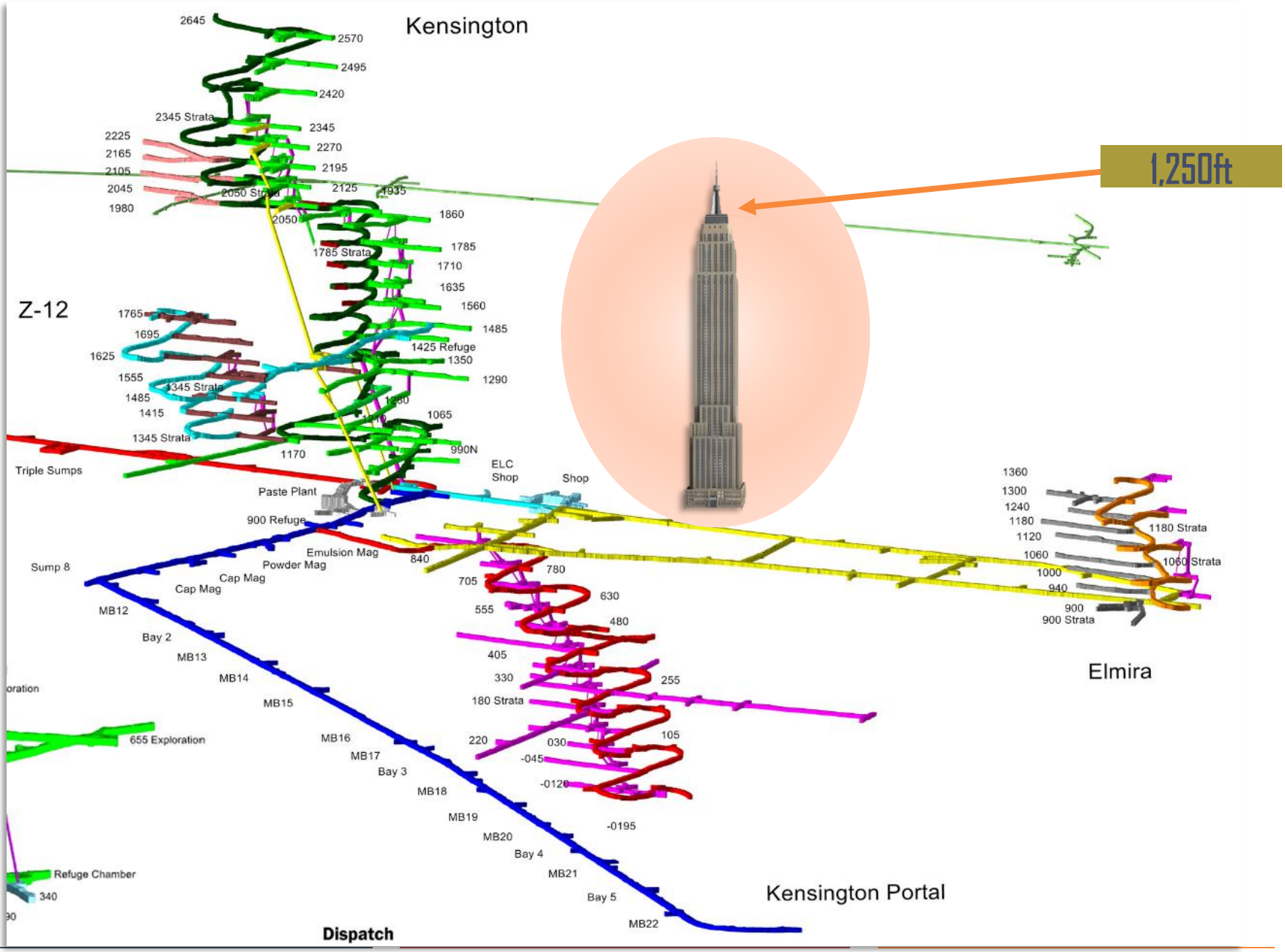

Emerging Issues

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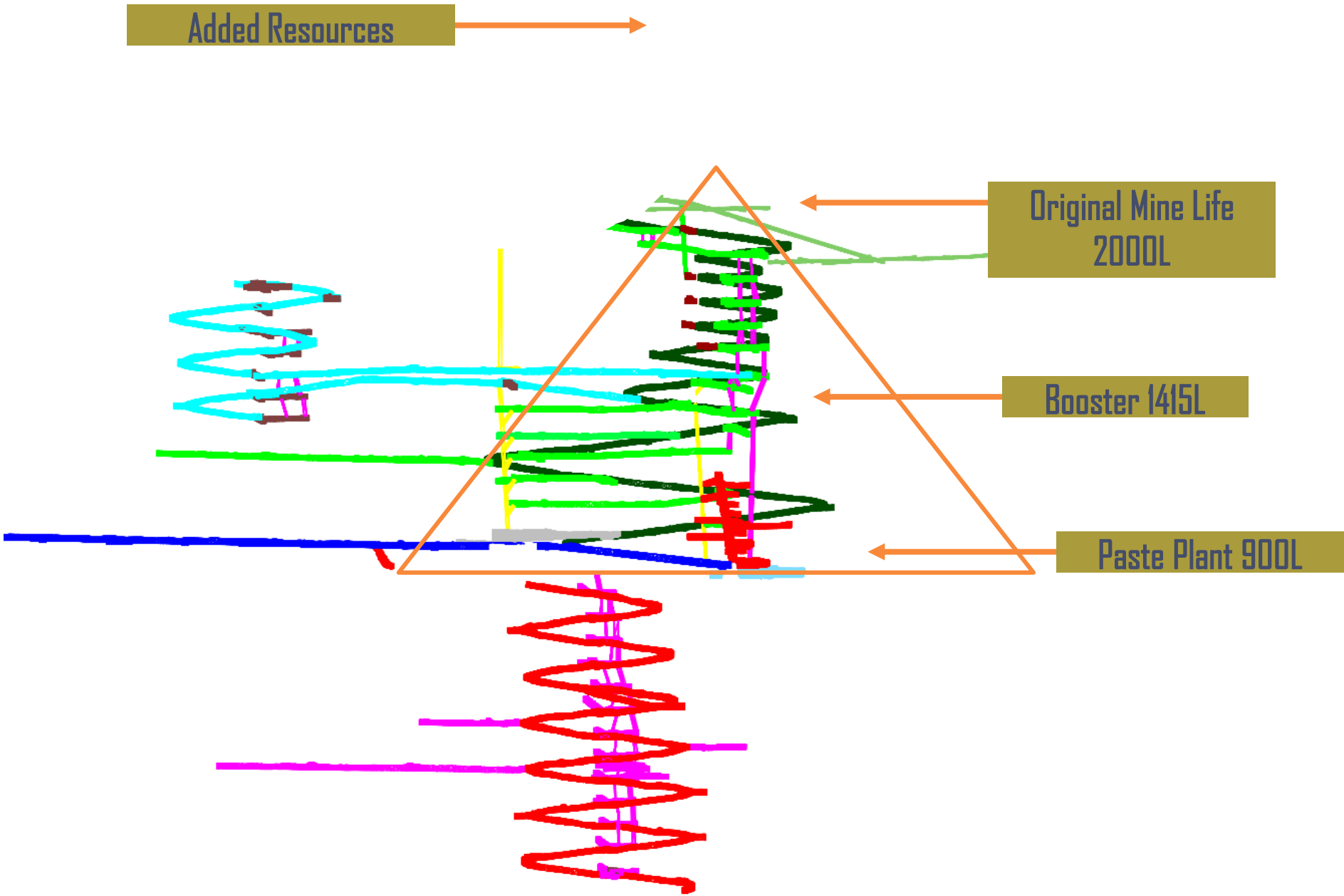
Timeline and Expectations



Emerging Issues

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- Pipe geometry
- Flushing inefficiency
- Water Hammer (pipe failure, coupling failure)
- Moving target
- Back pressure
- Pump design

Improvements & Solutions

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Water Hammer

Water Hammer (cont.)

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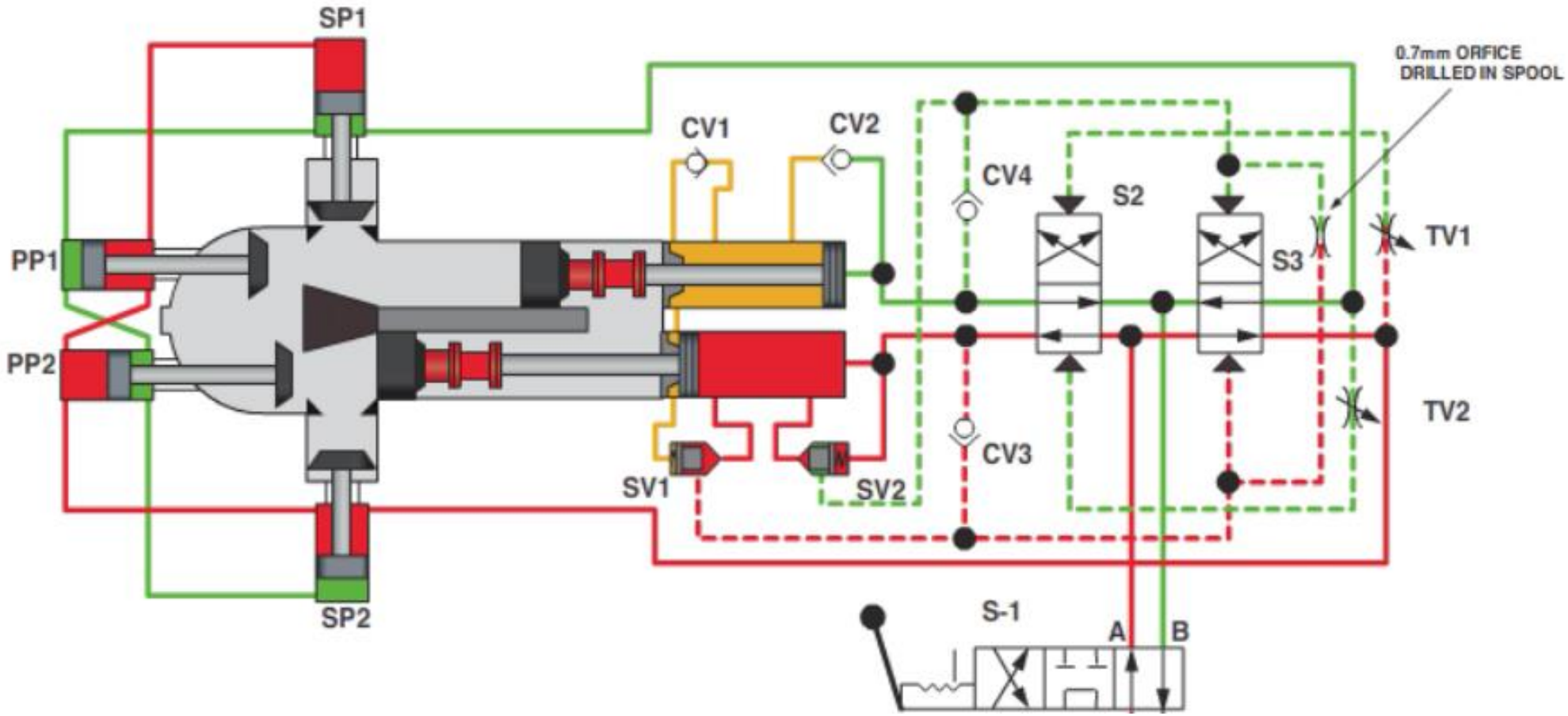
- Pump reprogramming
  - Ideal Control Circuit (ICC)
  - Smoother transition
- Almost eliminated all piping issues



Water Hammer (cont.)

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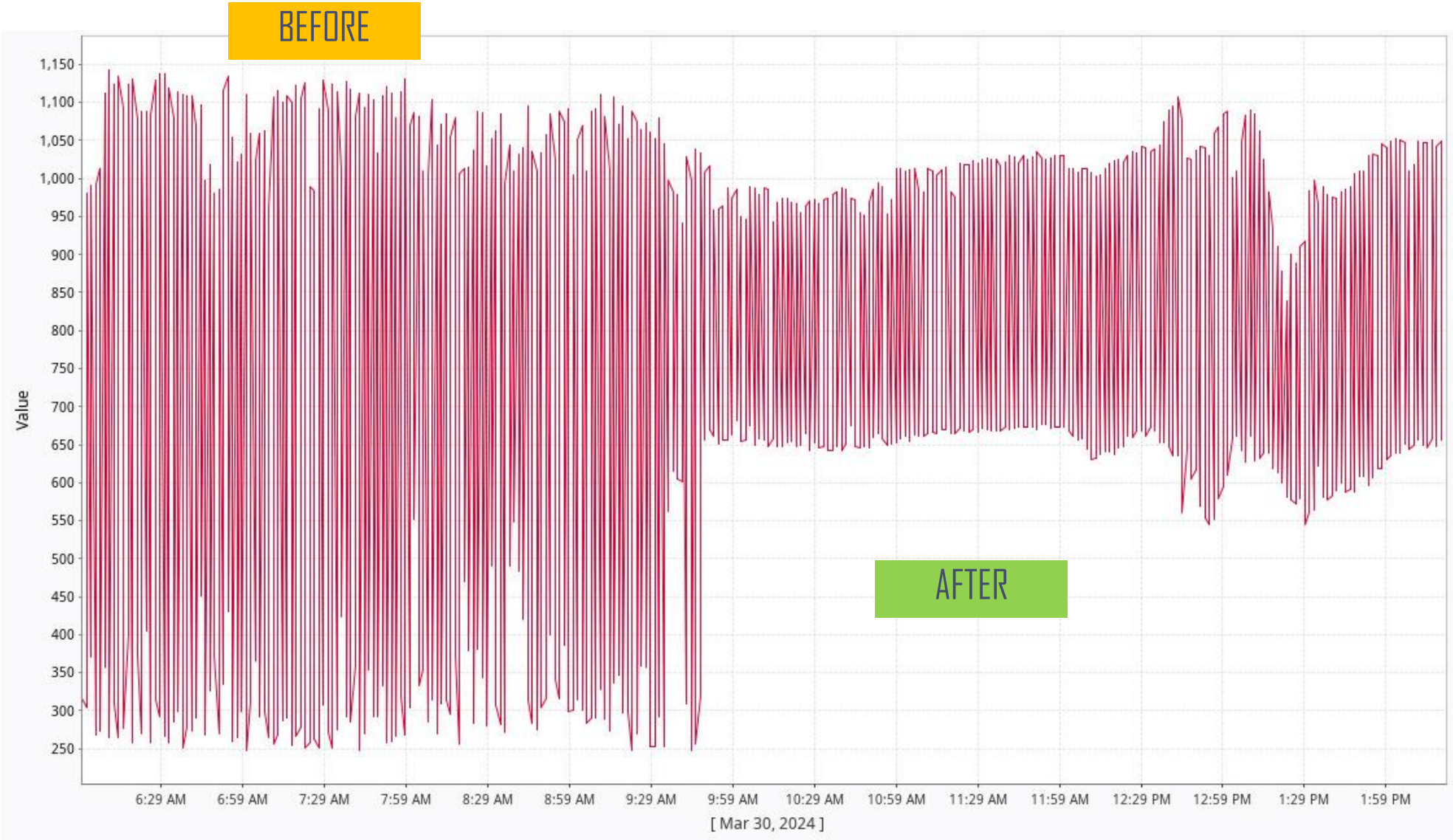

Washed Out Wear Parts

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Twin Circuit vs Single Circuit

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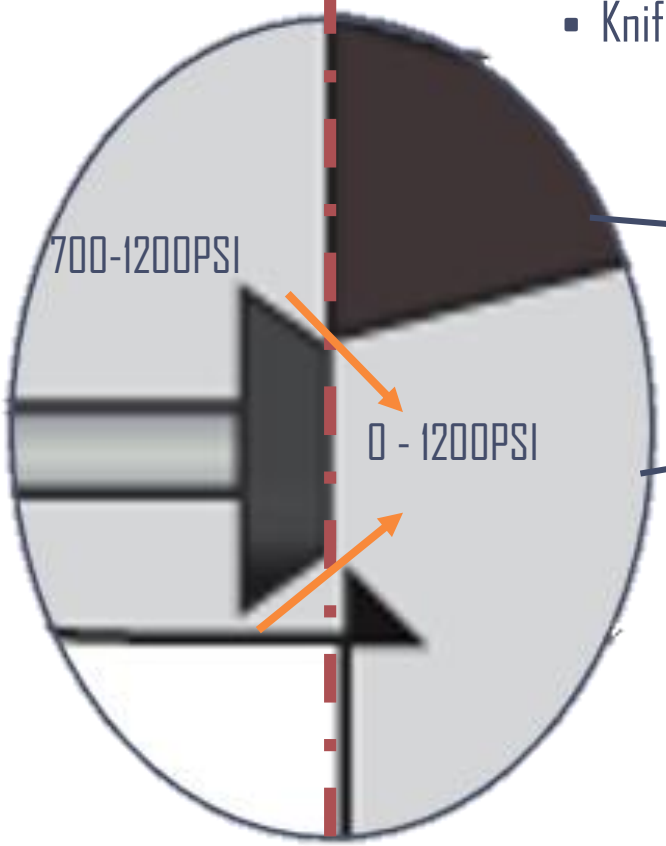
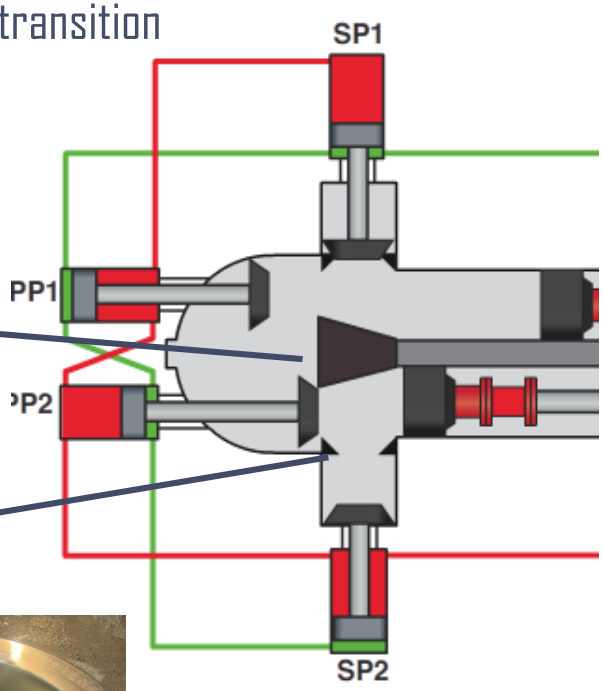
Discharge side

- 700 to 1,200psi
- Constant head pressure

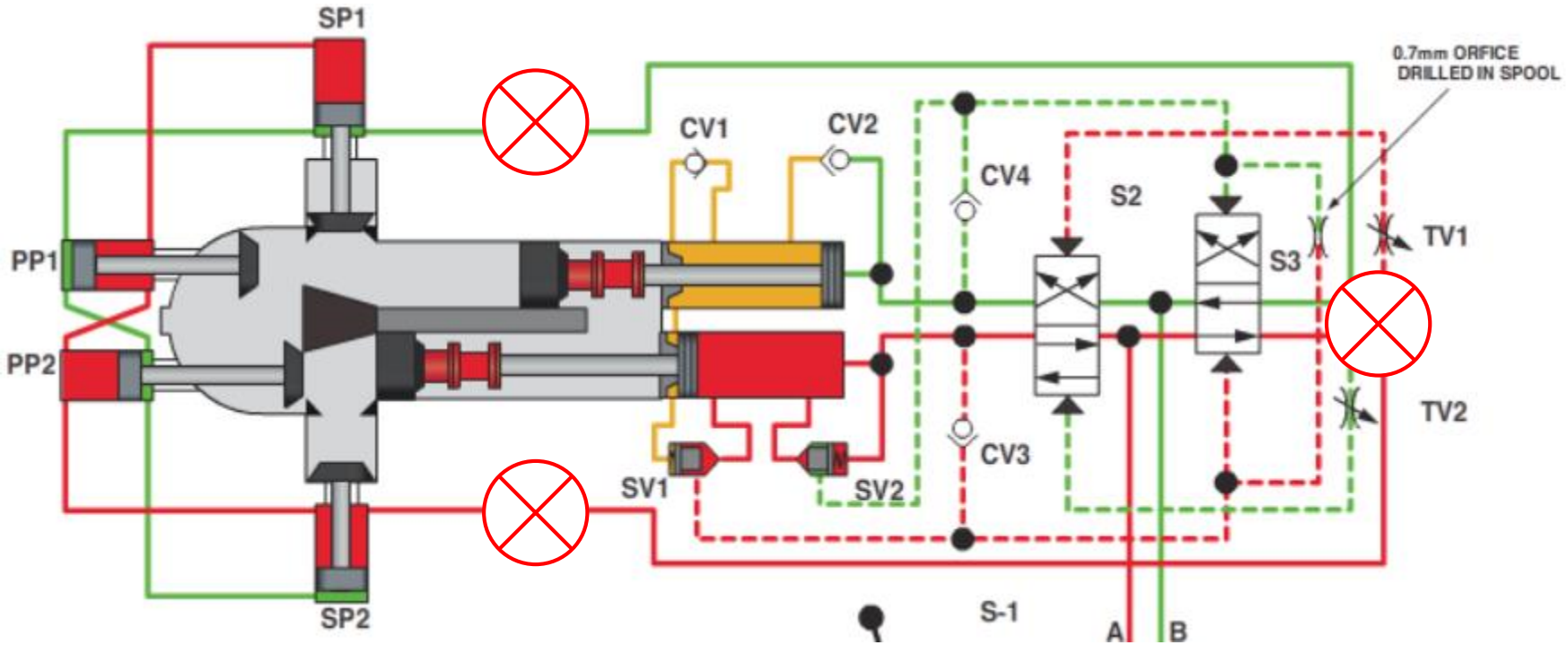
Material side

- 0 to 1,200psi
- See no pressure at transition
- Knife edge seal





Twin Circuit Conversion



- Disconnect the S3 block and connect it to its own oil tank and motor
- Add accumulator to hold and control the hydraulic pressure
- Retrofit old technology to 2024 best practices

Twin Circuit Conversion (cont.)

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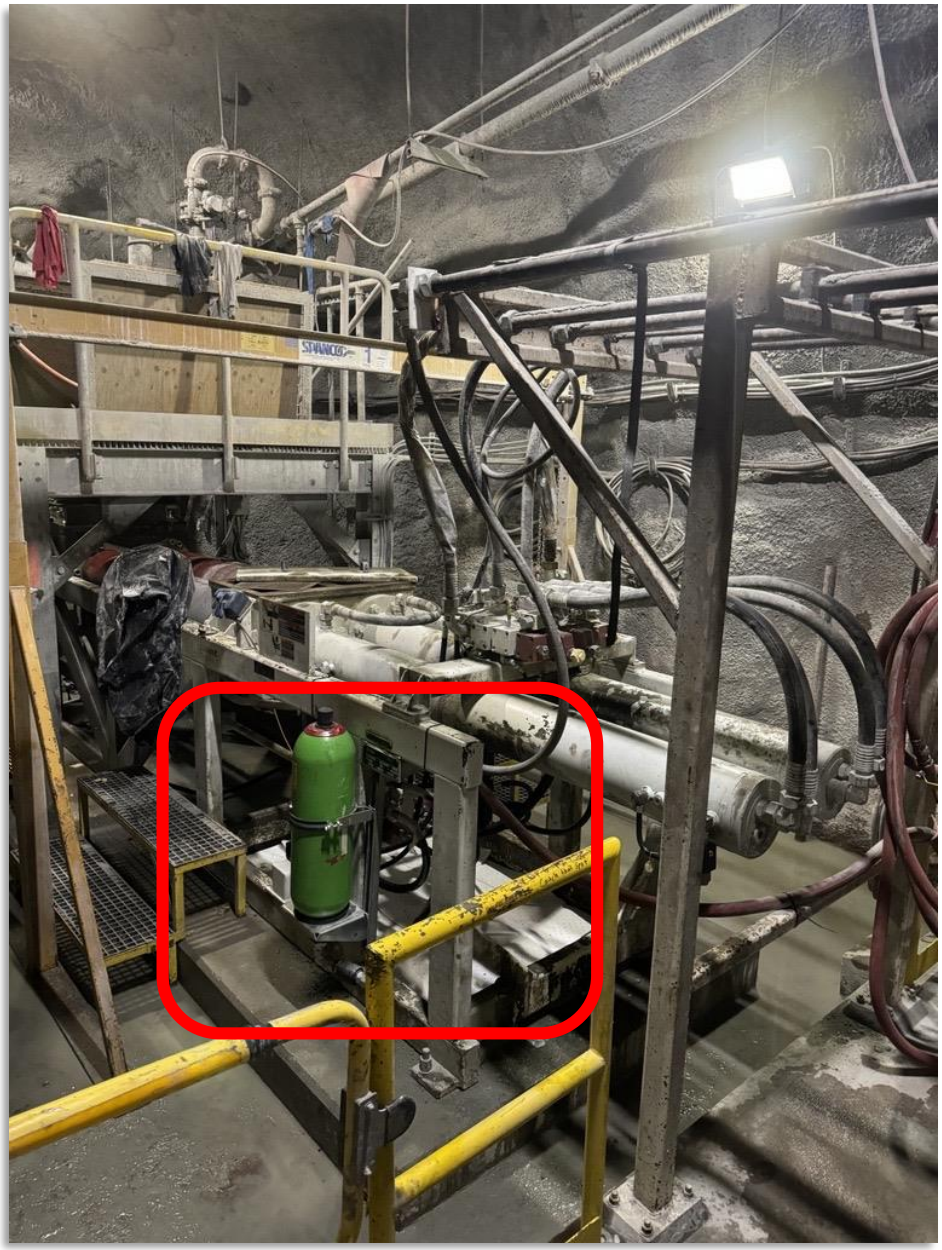
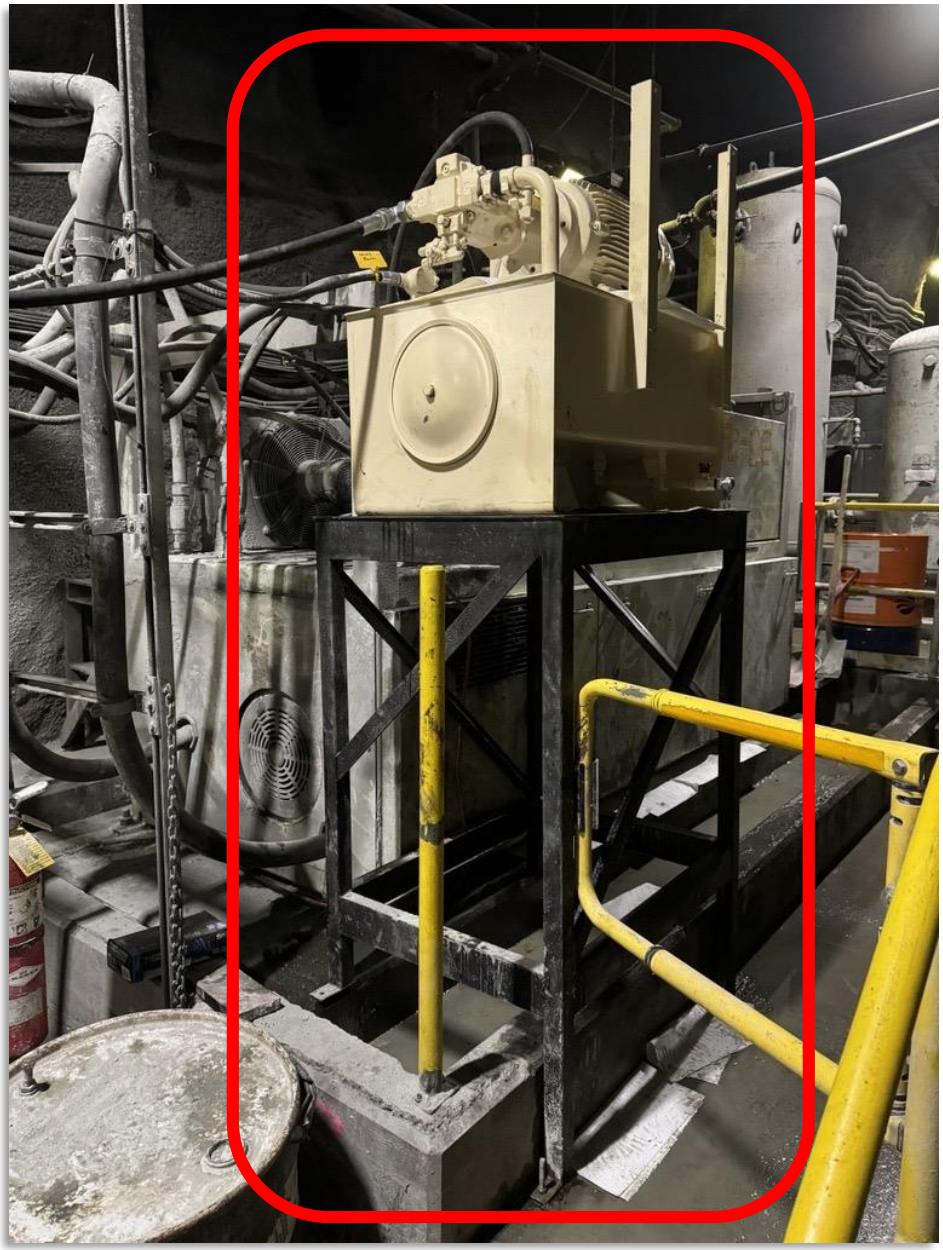
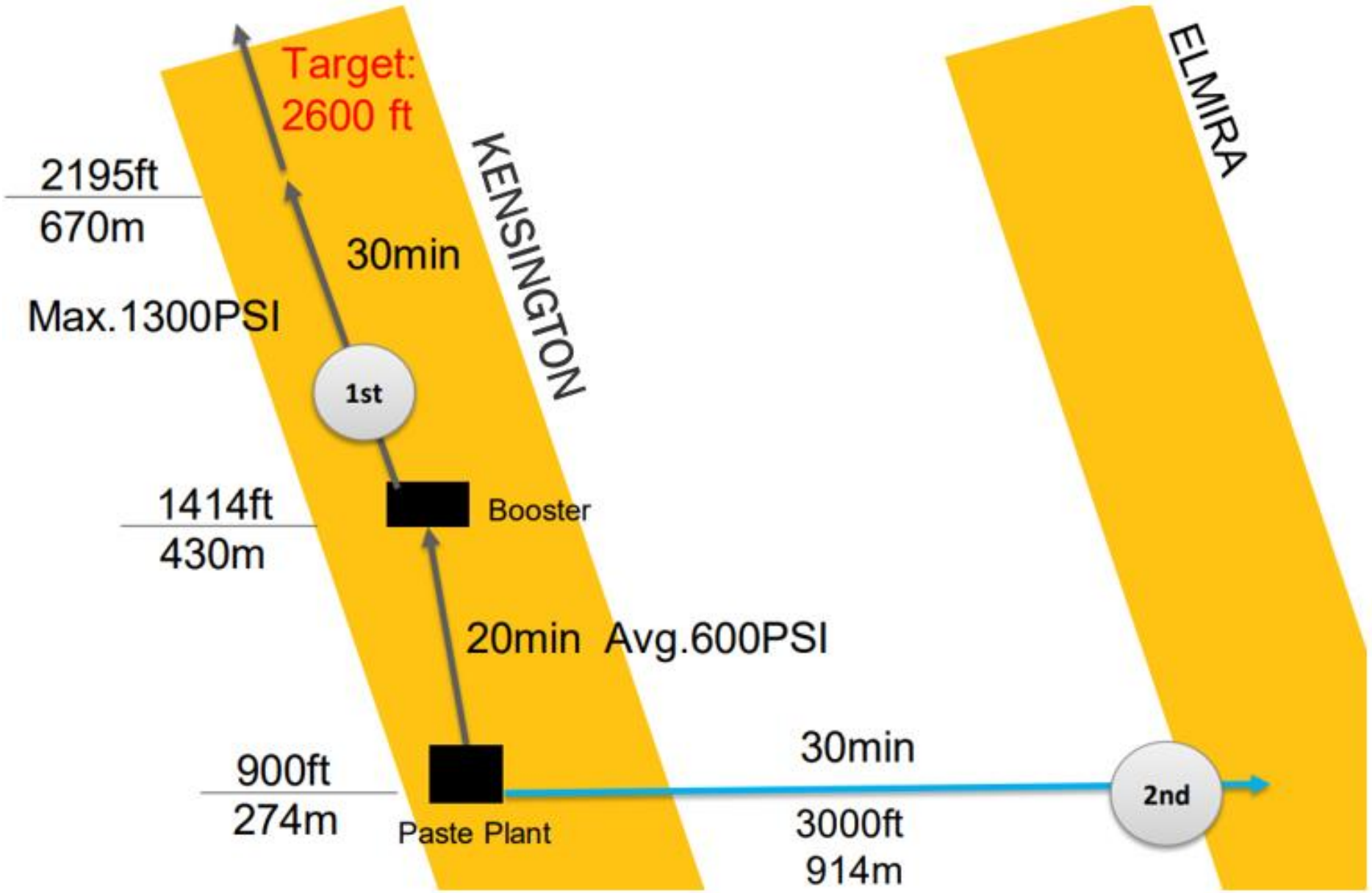
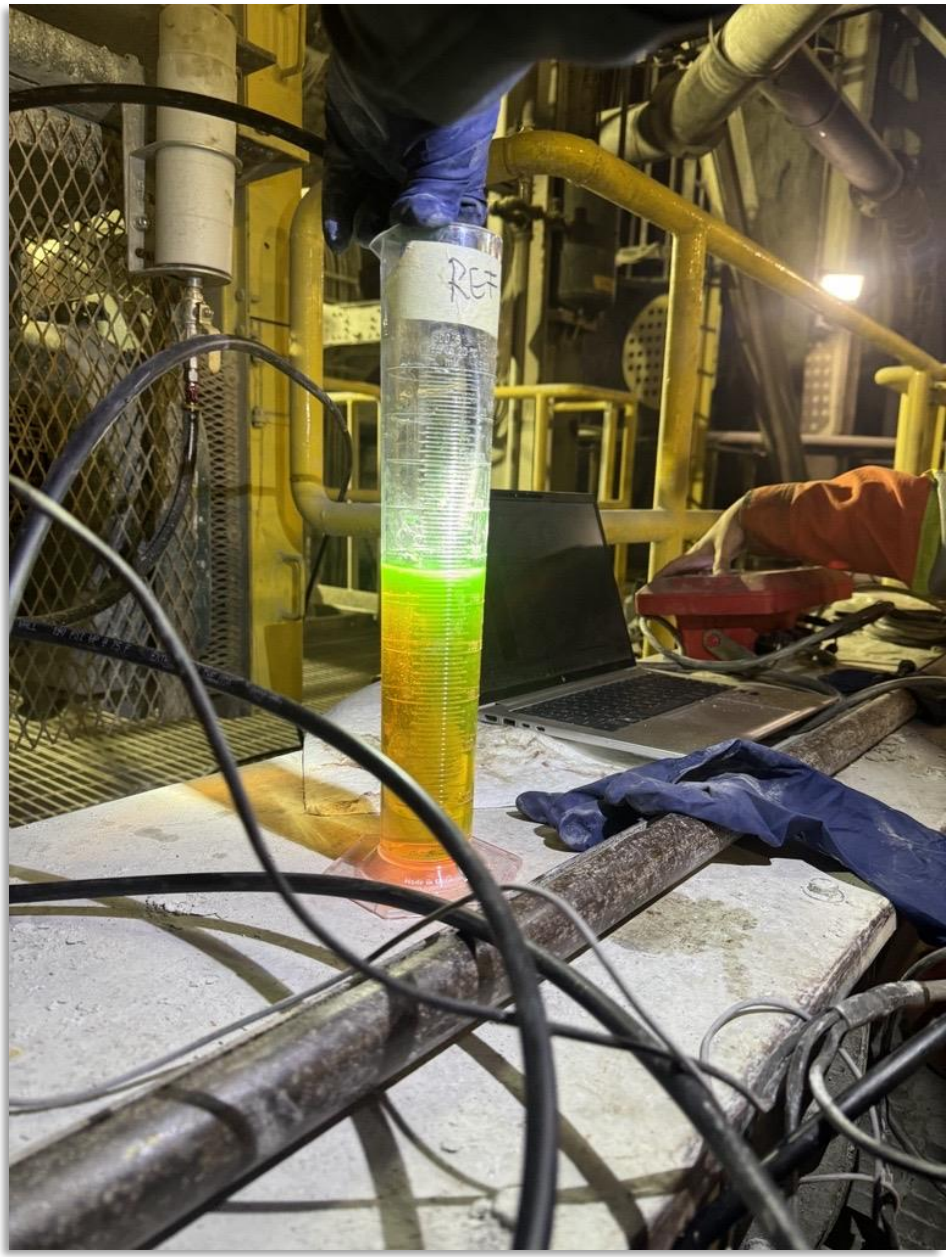




Cement Admixture



Cement Admixture (cont.)



Objective:

- Delay hydration of cement
- Reduce sedimentation
- Reduce water content
- Increase % solids
- Extend paste reach

Cement Admixture (cont.)

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0 min

120 min

Cement Admixture (cont.)

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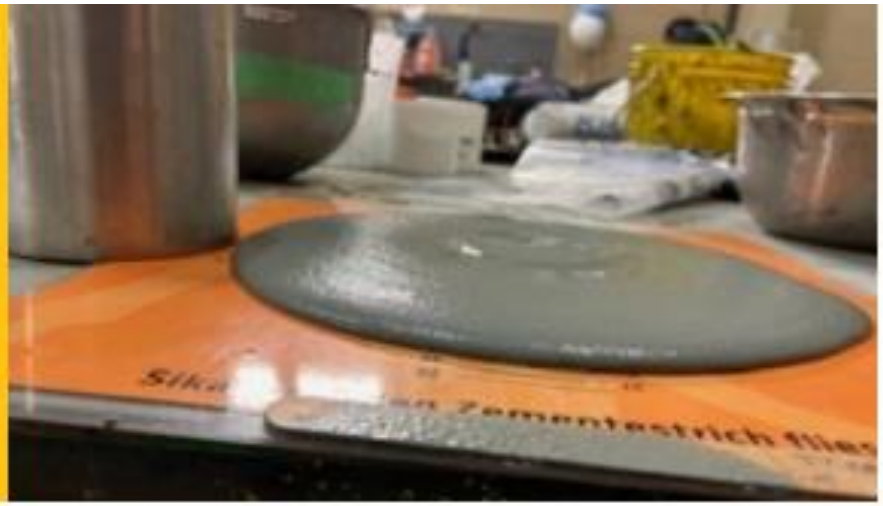
0 min

2%



120 min

Cement Admixture (cont.)

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- Increased flowability of the paste
- Reduced buildup in pipe and hopper
- Reduced 100psi friction loss
- Increased solid content by 2%
- Needs more fine tuning

Conclusion

Emilien Charbonneau, Project Engineer III

Conclusion

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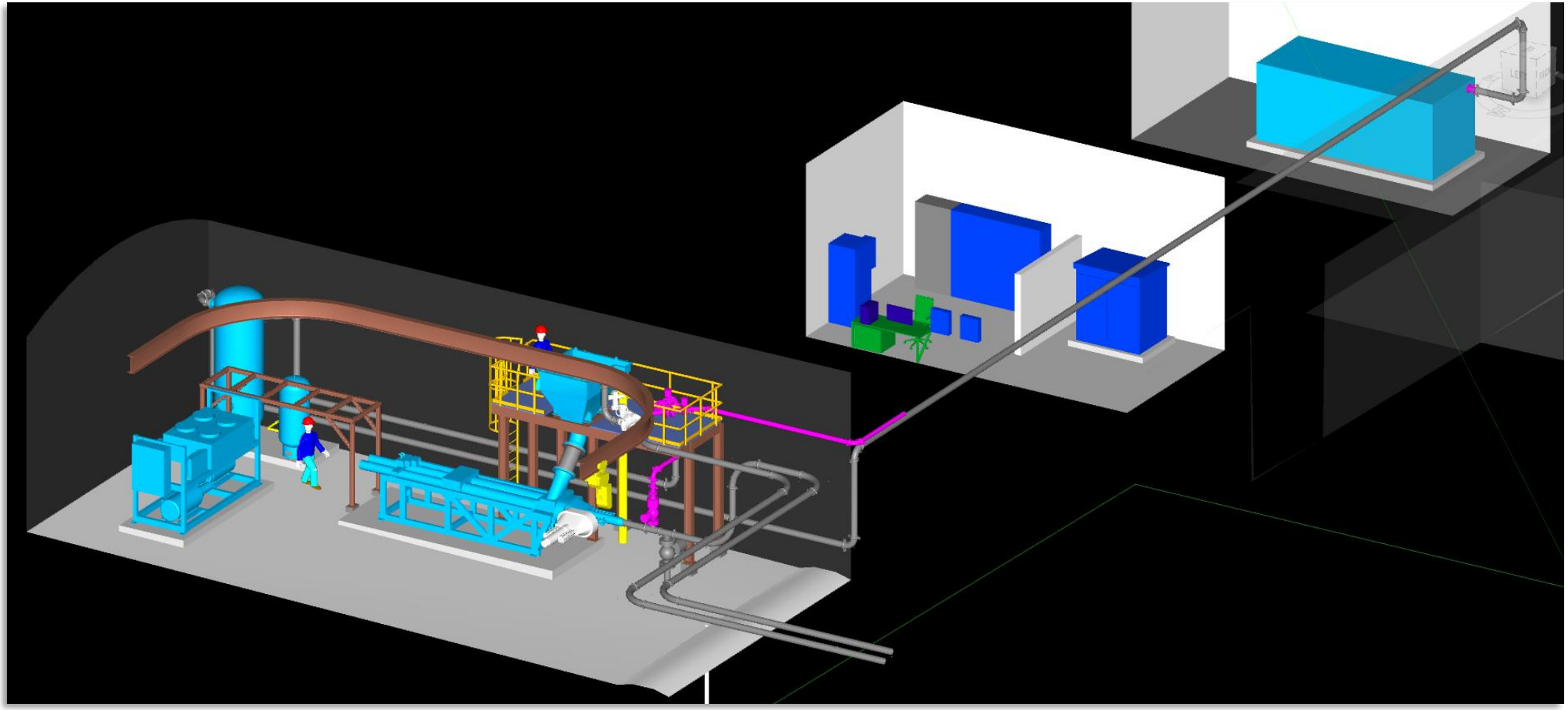
- Lessons learned with our current system will be taken into consideration for the new plant in the new Elmira ore body
- Operations and maintenance-friendly plant to set Kensington up for success



Conclusion (cont.)

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- Prevented a large capital expense of $4M by eliminating the need for a second booster station
- Reduced pressure by 20%
- Increased paste placement by 30%
- Reduced risk of pipe bursts
- Increased team's overall knowledge
- Worked as a team to successfully fix paste issues for our unique situation
- On track to have a well-designed Elmira Booster Station

Contact Information

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