

BLAST OPTIMISATION (OVERSIZE REDUCTION) AT THE ASTEC BLUEROCK QUARRY

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ABSTRACT

The Astec Bluerock Quarry is excavating an extremely difficult to blast rock type due to its highly variable jointing density that leads to excessive oversize. A drill and blast benchmarking exercise led to eight recommendations to minimise this problem. Quarry personnel instigated a continuous improvement blasting program, that has implemented six out of eight recommendations, resulting in a large reduction in the oversize and increased crusher throughputs for a marginal 7% increase in drill and blast costs. Unit costs have reduced by an estimated 10%.