

MOUNT POLLEY MINE

WILLIAMS LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



MINING CASE STUDY

PROJECT

TYPE OF FACILITY:

Copper/Gold Mine

VICTAULIC SOLUTIONS:

Cost Savings
Ease of Maintenance
Labour Savings
Outstanding Performance

OWNER:

Imperial Metals

CONTRACTOR:

Mount Polley Mine

ENGINEER/CONSULTANT:

Mount Polley Mine

COMPLETED DATE:

2016



Mount Polley is an open-pit copper and gold mine with an underground component located in South-Central British Columbia, 56 kilometers/34 miles northeast of Williams Lake.

On the site's copper filter press systems, 10"/250mm knife gate valves are used to control the flow of abrasive materials. With its current flanged valve solution, Mount Polley consistently experiences leaks and needs to replace each valve approximately once a month.

To maintain the system, failed valves need to be removed with a forklift and hoist and then rebuilt for another use. This changeout process takes two workers four hours at a cost of \$44,000 per hour of downtime (not including wages and equipment). Additionally, the mine needs to keep one valve on hand for every operating valve in the plant.

In 2016, Victaulic® introduced the Series 795 Knife Gate Valve - the first knife gate valve in the industry that can be maintained in-line without having to disconnect the valve from the piping system and subsequently drag it to the maintenance facility to be repaired or rebuilt. The valve's wear parts are contained within a single cartridge kit and can be easily removed and replaced in just 30-40 minutes.

Recognizing sizable maintenance advantages and cost savings, Mount Polley replaced one of its existing valves in late September with a new air-actuated Victaulic valve to witness the difference firsthand. Eight weeks later, Mount Polley estimates it has saved \$352,000 to date in replacing only one valve. Plans are in place to upgrade Mount Polley's systems with more Victaulic knife gate valves in the near future.

SPECIFICATIONS

SERVICES:	PIPE MATERIALS:	PIPE SIZE RANGE:
Copper Filter Press	Carbon Steel Sch. 40	10"/250mm

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