



Pilanesberg Platinum Mines (PPM) - COUGAR SERIES 8350

PPM is the wholly owned operating subsidiary of Sedibelo Platinum Mines Ltd (drill, blast, load and haul), held via Platmin South Africa (previously Boynton).

The design processing and milling capacities of the concentrator are 417ktpm and 285ktpm respectively. The 132ktpm difference is a Dense Medium Separator (DMS) for upgrading reefs.

The two milling streams have design capacities of 220ktpm silicates (pseudo reef package) and 65ktpm for UG2 reef. The mills consistently operate at above design capacity.

The Cougar Solution

PPM trialled Cougar series 8350-1 lithium Complex, high viscosity base oil grease, which was compatible with the previous grease being used. It was not necessary to prepack Cougar 8350-1 into the bearing housing.

A pneumatic grease pump was used on each side of the bearing to push out the old grease. A grease channel was drilled into the annular groove; the bearing housing was closed, and the Easylube electro-mechanical auto lubricator was installed and set to nine months.

The Results

The bearing temperatures reduced to 59°C without having to use forced air draft.

Easylube auto lubricator Grease cycle has now been reduced to six months on 250ml of Cougar 8350-1.

The Savings

- Substantial reduction of grease usage
- Production increase—The Mill does not 'trip out' due to high pinion bearing temperatures.
- Pinion Bearing Life extended.

The Application

The UG2, Primary 14' x 21' Ball Mill, Pinion Bearings SKF 23156.W33.C3

The Problem

The Ball Mill pinion bearings were running too hot, at a temperature of 79 °C, even with forced air cooling, causing the mill to trip out and halt production.

A few other greases have been tried using forced air over the pillow blocks, but all these efforts only provided minimum improvement.



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Cougar Lubricants International Ltd.
Registered in England No. 08401804

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