

ZMI Portec Bunker Hill Project helps clean up 100 years of mining waste

After more than a century of abuse and degradation, the State of Idaho and the EPA are cleaning up the Silver Valley in Idaho, long known as one of the most polluted sites in the country. The soil and water are contaminated with heavy metals including cadmium, lead, and zinc.

The clean-up will take many years to accomplish and ZMI/Portec is a big part of that renewal project after being awarded the contract for providing new chemical

processing equipment for the Bunker Hill site mine water treatment plant last year, our biggest project to date. We supplied Bunker Hill with two pebble lime storage silos, two M-25 lime slakers, a pump room and a storage tank. It is a completely redundant system in that each silo can feed either slaker, and each slaker can feed the slurry tank. The advantage is that if one system is off-line for maintenance, the other will keep operating. This provides a high degree of redundancy to help ensure the treatment system remains operable.

Our Controls Department designed the control system to run both our slaking system and various plant components. The new control system for the treatment plant will actually be tapping into our controls to run some of their own equipment, such as the lime feed and pH control system, and a sump pump.

The entire project was completed as part of a time-critical clean-up action and shipped on schedule with just a small amount of on-site wiring needed.



ZMI/Portec's new water treatment system installed at the Bunker Hill job site in Kellogg, Idaho.