



BHP Australia copper mine hit by another power outage



BHP said that operations were resuming following the restoration of power in the wake of the overnight outage that was blamed on the failure of an interconnector, a structure used to let energy flow between networks.

BHP Chief Executive Andrew Mackenzie said in a statement that "Olympic Dam's latest outage shows Australia's investability and jobs are placed in peril by the failure of policy to both reduce emissions and secure affordable, despatchable and uninterrupted power." A BHP spokeswoman declined to comment

BHP Billiton said that its Olympic Dam copper mine was without power for four hours due to a blackout in the state of South Australia. That marks the second time in two months that Australia's second-biggest copper mine has been brought to a standstill over power issues.

on any impact on production from the latest blackout. The previous blackout left the mine without power for two weeks, costing BHP an average of 567 tonnes in lost copper production a day, based on last year's output of 203,000 tonnes. That would be worth around USD 3 million a day at current metals prices.

Alcoa assessing impact of Portland smelter outage



Aluminium maker Alcoa Corp was assessing the impact of a power outage at its Portland smelter in Australia that forced it to halt a potline, adding that it was facing 'substantial challenges'.

The smelter was hit when a power interconnector between the states of Victoria and South Australia went down knocking out power to both of the plant's potlines for about five-and-a-half hours.

Alcoa said in a statement that "We are now beginning to assess the operational impact of the outage and, given the significance of this event, we have substantial challenges and analysis ahead of us. As that work is completed, we will provide an update."

Speculation has grown about the future of the Portland smelter after a recent rise in electricity prices added to pressure from a years-long glut in the global aluminium market.

A long power outage can cause molten aluminium to solidify in the potline's cells, from which it has to be chiselled out. The blackout also disrupted production at a second potline, although a portion of it was still operating, Alcoa said. A spokesman declined to give further details.

Analysts said the power outage could further jeopardise the future of the smelter, given the expense and time required to restart damaged potlines. An Alcoa spokesman said at the time that the company was not speculating about the future of the plant.

The smelter, co owned by Alcoa, CITIC Resources and an arm of Marubeni Corp 8002.T, produces about 300,000 tonnes of aluminium a year.

World mine production increases by 5.8 %



World mine production is estimated to have increased by around 5.8% (730,000 t) in the first eight months of 2016 compared with production in the same period of 2015. Concentrate production increased by 7.5% while solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) declined by 0.5%.

The increase in world mine production was mainly due to a 45% rise in Peruvian output that is benefitting from new and expanded capacity brought on stream in the last two years. A recovery in production levels in Canada and the United States, expanded capacity in Mexico and a ramp-up

in production in Mongolia, also contributed to world growth.

However overall growth was partially offset by a 4% decline in production in Chile, the world's biggest copper mine producer, and a 7% decline in DRC where output is constrained by temporary production cuts. On a regional basis, production rose by 7% in the Americas, 9% in Asia and 7% in Oceania but declined by 4% in Africa while remaining essentially unchanged in Europe.

The average world mine capacity utilization rate for the first eight months of 2016 increased to 85% from 84% in the same period of 2015.