

Eliminating Unscheduled Shutdowns

The Problem

A Latin American operation was experiencing material build-up in their chutes. Each working period, production would have to stop up to three times to unblock the chutes and feed hoppers with sledge hammers and vibratory motors. These unscheduled stoppages were a major issue. Not only was this process time-consuming, but it also created health, safety, and environment concerns.



Valley Rubber's new system

(Right) Before Valley Rubber's system was installed.



Valley Rubber's Solution

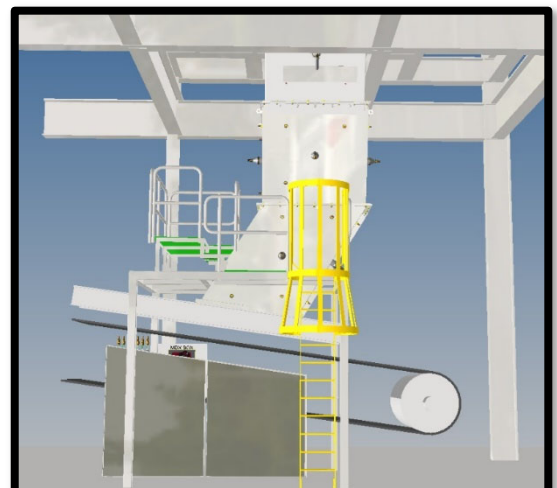
Valley Rubber performed a 3D scan of the existing structure to determine the best course of action for a new system design. The chute was completely redesigned, utilizing Inflatable Liners in all critical areas, to promote material flow and mitigate build-up.

Benefits

At the time of this publication, 120,846.72 tons of copper concentrate had traveled through the Valley Rubber lined chute with inflatables, where the average material moisture content is 10% but can be at times higher than 12%. Since the implementation of the new liners, the plant has surpassed a 90 day period of uninterrupted work.



Valley Rubber's MDX Control Box for Inflatable Liners



3D Scan

Below is an example of two images taken where the material moisture content was 12%. Notice the difference between the Valley Rubber inflatable system versus the alternative coating system.



Before



After

For more information on how Valley Rubber can develop a solution for your toughest issues, please visit us online: ValleyRubber.Solutions.