

Oil-drain intervals extended by 50%. Yearly savings: \$300,000 – plus! One of the world’s most efficient mining operations makes efficiency gains with Mobil Delvac 1300 Super.

Teck Coal’s Fording River operation in southeastern British Columbia takes pride in its attention to detail. The steelmaking coal mined here is crushed and screened, then cleaned using state-of-the-art cyclones, and dried to remove excess water weight before it’s shipped via unit train to the port at Roberts Bank near Vancouver. Each carload is sprayed with latex to reduce dust emissions on the journey.

With a well-established interest in boosting efficiency and reducing their impact on the environment, Teck Coal seemed a likely choice for a lubricant-saving initiative from Imperial Oil.

The company was already using Mobil Delvac 1300 Super. The lubricant’s outstanding performance reserve enables longer drain intervals, even under the most severe operating conditions. It seemed made-to-order for an extended-drain program at Teck’s Fording River site.

“We put together a proposal to extend oil-drain intervals on their Komatsu haul trucks from 500 hours to 750,” says **Jason Kruszelnicki**, an Imperial Oil account executive. Technical Specialist **Gaetan Lacasse** recommended a series of detailed oil analyses to confirm that Teck Coal could make the change without risk to their equipment.

Mark Carey, Teck’s Mechanical Engineer, liked the idea but was concerned about the engine warranty. “Detroit Diesel was not a big fan of extended drains and we wanted to avoid any possibility of a warranty dispute if we ran into problems.”

The solution was to equip each of the 18 Detroit-Diesel powered trucks (14 Komatsu 830Es and four 930Es) with oil-reserve systems. This would provide each truck with a 35-gallon tank of fresh oil mounted away from the engine.

Mark Carey explains: “The fresh oil circulates back and forth with the engine sump oil. It’s like having 80 gallons of oil, so it takes that much longer to degrade it.” He says each oil-reserve system cost \$7,500, plus about 30-man hours to install.

Jason Kruszelnicki outlines the benefits accruing to the customer as a result of making the change and trusting Mobil Delvac 1300 Super to live up to its reputation for long lubricant life. “Each haul truck runs about 5,500 hours per year – a total of 99,000 hours for all 18 trucks. An average PM (Preventive Maintenance) service costs about \$5,000. This new program reduced the total PMs from 198 to 132 – a saving of 66 PMs, or \$330,000 a year.”

Significantly, these calculations do not include the benefits of added equipment availability. Teck’s Mark Carey says, “We have certainly seen an increase in equipment availability, and the savings go far, far beyond our savings in maintenance costs alone.”



Big trucks, big savings.
Imperial Oil’s Gaetan Lacasse (left) and Jason Kruszelnicki with Teck Coal’s Mark Carey (centre) and one of the Komatsu 930Es now running on extended oil-drain intervals with Mobil Delvac 1300 Super. The program is saving the metallurgical coal producer well over \$300,000 a year.