

Metallurgical Test Work - The Pain Continues

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ABSTRACT

This is the second in a planned series of three papers reviewing metallurgical test work. The first paper focussed on the “before phase” and was presented to the *14th Mill Operators’ Conference* in Brisbane, (Newell, Munro and Fiedler, 2018). This paper covers the issues that are commonly encountered “during” a metallurgical test work program.

As previously noted, test work is the foundation upon which the success of projects and subsequent operations is laid, reflected in Taggart’s pithy observation: “Make your mistakes on the small scale and your profits on the larger scale”. Indeed, Trench has succinctly noted that “Get the metallurgical characteristics wrong and you don’t have a project”.

This paper provides observations and guidelines for the period when metallurgical testing is being conducted, noting preferred practices as well as precautions and mitigations. This includes the key characteristics of metallurgical test work programs, including quality control and associated drivers, and most importantly, managing test work facilities.