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How Economics Drive the Application of Ore Sorting

WTC Kendall FAusIMM,

1.Executive Engineer, Mintrex Pty Ltd, SUBIACO WA 6008.

ABSTRACT

Ore sorting has the potential to reduce the feed to wet plants and in the case of complex ore bodies that can significantly reduce water, energy and reagent consumptions and the resulting operating costs for the mine/project.

The application of ore sorters has sparked renewed interest and application in the precious and base metals mining industry in recent years as a result of the continuing development of new sensing technology and very fast information processing that is making ore sorters applicable to a much wider range of ores and larger scale operations.

The application of ore sorters involves a range of trade off decisions that have economic impact upon the benefits of ores sorting to the project under consideration. This paper evaluates the economic impact of using ore sorting technology in various base metal and gold projects. This paper will present some typical trade offs to be considered and their impact in a particular project (at various stages of development) using results from various base metal and gold projects.