Producing & Protecting Through Partnership: The Coeur Mining Success Story

Coeur Mining, Inc. is a precious metals producer with mines located in the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as several precious metals exploration projects throughout North America. The company employs approximately 2,000 and is headquartered in Chicago, IL.

The company’s 90+ years of mining history has established Coeur Mining as a leader in innovation, responsible mining and collaboration. This emphasis on collaboration prompted us to sit down with Eric Randleman, CIH, CSP and Corporate Occupational Health Specialist at Coeur Mining to talk about how Coeur Mining’s contracting with VelocityEHS and use of VelocityEHS Industrial Hygiene (IH) software solutions have helped Coeur Mining enhance the health and safety of workers.
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has worked in the field of environmental, health and safety (EHS) and IH for more than seven years. Eric’s first experience partnering with VelocityEHS came in 2014 as an IH manager for a leading global construction materials manufacturer. The company had used an earlier version of VelocityEHS IH software from Spiramid, which was acquired by VelocityEHS in 2019. When he moved into his current position at Coeur Mining, Eric was eager to enhance the company’s IH program. He knew he needed a software system that would keep all of their IH data accurate and organized yet be simple enough for everyone on his team to use with confidence.

Recalling his positive experience with Spiramid, Eric felt the VelocityEHS software had the potential to fill the requirements of Coeur Mining’s IH program, especially given its simple and intuitive user interface. Following the review of multiple IH software proposals, the cost-benefit of the VelocityEHS software appeared to be the best aligned with Coeur Mining’s business and EHS goals. VelocityEHS was awarded the business, and Eric and his team launched their implementation plan.

Unique Challenges in the Mining Industry

The mining industry has some specific challenges and considerations when it comes to IH, including monitoring occupational exposure limits (OEL) and similar exposure groups (SEG) for dust, crystalline silica and noise. For example, when you’re collecting samples to measure exposures to silica dust, the numbers have to be highly accurate to ensure that workplaces are in compliance with Mine Safety and Health Administration requirements. Eric needed a way to manage the high volume of samples, perform complex exposure calculations and quantify a wide range of exposure values for multiple SEGs across Coeur Mining’s various operations.

“Errors can occur, especially when you start working with people with various skill sets and experiences, who don’t necessarily have an IH background. These people have training on sampling but are not necessarily experts in the field…The VelocityEHS platform reduces the potential for human error in doing those calculations. We’re now able to better understand what’s actually going on with compliance.”

Eric was excited to share the feedback his team has experienced working with the VelocityEHS solution, “The IH software has helped us organize our data to the point where we can make control changes before the overall mine changes exceed the controls. We can focus on controlling these things to the best of our abilities and try to minimize the need for Personal Protective Equipment.”

A Real Partner

The point person in the relationship between Coeur Mining and VelocityEHS was Principal Solutions Strategist for Industrial Hygiene, Dave Risi. Eric and Dave first started working together back in 2014 when Eric was with his previous company, and Dave was heading up the efforts at Spiramid. The two worked closely to implement the Spiramid IH management system, which is now VelocityEHS Industrial Hygiene.
Having developed such a strong working relationship with Dave during that time, Eric felt confident about partnering with VelocityEHS when Coeur Mining needed a platform to manage their IH program. Having Dave involved in not only the planning, implementation and maintenance of Coeur Mining’s IH system, but also in the integration of the software was immensely helpful for Eric and his team.

“We speak the same language…By having that CIH background, he’s able to understand the ‘EHS talk’ and it definitely helps out,” Eric commented.

Intangible Benefits

One of the key benefits of the software that excited Eric the most was the new lab interface feature. It allows Eric and his team to complete sample and analysis tasks much faster. With VelocityEHS, the time to enter sampling data has been cut by two-thirds, thanks to an intuitive sample collection interface and integrated lab sample analysis guides (SAGs) that allow users to select analytical services from a directory of laboratories all within the software. Now, Coeur Mining employees spend less time entering data and tracking down sampling protocols, and more time focused on important safety tasks.

The ability to record, track and organize the company’s IH program and sample data was a big win, but the lab integration features also helped Eric and his team lighten their load when it came to IH data entry and analysis. Coeur Mining uses a major IH lab, and they integrated their laboratory information management system (LIMS) with the VelocityEHS IH solution. This allows the lab to upload analytical results directly to Coeur Mining’s IH software system, dramatically reducing sample turnaround times, data errors and analytical tasks. Eric was happy to share, “Now that the lab has their own portal to implement and maintain their lab interface with the database, there is more autonomy and control over the data, which provides for fewer human entry errors and less extra data entry on Coeur’s end.”

Team Support in Implementation

“It was a seamless transition.”

Before it even came time to train his team to use the software, Eric had actively involved them in the selection and implementation processes. Then, to get everyone acclimated to using the system in the workplace, a training event was organized in Reno, Nevada – a central location to Coeur Mining’s five mine sites across North America. Eric’s team successfully completed the training, and he explained that even his experienced colleagues who were comfortable with the previous IH database had an easy user experience with the VelocityEHS software.

When discussing how his team feels about using the software, he said, “I haven’t received much feedback aside from the VelocityEHS software being a lot easier to use, and if you’re able to cut down on the time to enter sample data, they’re going to be happy.”

What’s Next?

Coeur Mining’s mission statement is “We Pursue a Higher Standard,” and VelocityEHS helps Coeur Mining achieve that standard. With a user-friendly system that tracks, records, calculates, organizes and manages all their IH program data, Coeur Mining employees are more empowered to create and maintain a safe and healthy workplace.

Although Coeur Mining has just recently implemented its IH solution, Eric looks forward to the company’s long-term partnership with VelocityEHS, saying “It’s been great, and I’m very happy as a customer. You guys have an excellent system.”
The Value of VelocityEHS IH Solutions

VelocityEHS Industrial Hygiene Software gives you industry-leading IH program capabilities built on AIHA best practices, right out of the box. Our time-saving suite of solutions enables you to quickly get up and running, with little to no training needed, so you can more efficiently protect worker health, maintain compliance and drive long-term program performance.

Benefits of VelocityEHS

Simplicity
We believe that well-designed, intuitive software ultimately gets used, and when your people are engaged, you get the greatest possible value from your IH software purchase.

Speed
Not only does our IH solution provide valuable time-saving capabilities, but our implementations require less time, cost less, and are more successful than other IH software systems on the market.

Unparalleled Customer Support
Our in-house IH experts and Customer Support Team stand ready to deliver the guidance, consultation and best practice approaches you need to solve your most complex IH management challenges.

Value
The IH experts at VelocityEHS are continuously developing the system enhancements and innovative new features you need to achieve greater levels of IH program efficiency throughout the life of your purchase.

Helping You Do Your Job Better
The fundamental purpose of our IH solutions, besides helping you create a safer and healthier workplace, is to eliminate time-consuming manual IH program tasks and give you back time to focus on your goals.

Industrial Hygiene Simplified
VelocityEHS Industrial Hygiene solutions help you assess and control workplace stressors, automate time-consuming IH tasks and maintain a world-class IH program, no matter what your level of IH expertise. Contact us to learn more!

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