
Case study

Regional HSE assurance



We've worked hard over the past few years to simplify and roll out health, safety and environment (HSE) controls across our assets. However, it was recognised that a cohesive and coordinated approach to testing and verifying our control framework was required to ensure significant HSE issues are identified and opportunities for improvement are not missed.

To further support our safety priority of focusing on in-field verification of controls, a Global Project Team was formed during FY2017 to develop and implement a common HSE assurance process in each BHP region. The project aims to provide:

- a more effective HSE control environment through the early detection of process and control deficiencies, quicker improvement cycles and simultaneous testing of processes and controls across all assets; and
- enhanced management visibility of HSE control issues as a result of more frequent verification activities performed by regional teams who are located closer to where the work is performed.

Building on existing processes in Minerals Australia, the Global Project Team was tasked with developing a BHP-wide HSE assurance process, providing a set of common tools, definitions and methodologies.

The assurance activities consist of reviews of the design effectiveness of processes and controls combined with a sampling across a number of sites within each region to test the operating effectiveness of these controls.

The key to success of the program is in how the assessments are carried out. The assessment team is kept small, typically only two or three individuals, and is focused on specific topics. Each assessment begins with a review of the design and adequacy of processes and key controls. In-field testing is then conducted at a sample of sites where observations, interviews and reviews of records take place.

The process gives us a unique opportunity to look across the regions to identify and share best practices to further improve our HSE control framework.
