



BHP suspends coking coal mines operations

The world's largest seaborne metallurgical coal producer and exporter BHP Billiton has suspended operations at five of its Queensland, Australia, coking coal mines due to cyclone Debbie, it said.

The mines are Goonyella Riverside, Peak Downs, Daunia (under a BHP-Mitsubishi alliance, BMA), South Walker Creek and Poitrel (BMC), a BHP spokesman told.

Met coal operations are still continuing, though at reduced levels at the miners' other assets at Broadmeadow, Caval Ridge, Saraji, the spokesman said. "Blackwater Mine near Emerald is not currently within the cyclone warning zone and is operating at normal capacity," he added.

"Assessments about resumption of operations will be made once the storm threat has passed," the spokesman said.

BMA's Hay Point Coal Terminal, which is the main export terminal for the



company's met coal, remains closed.

Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland and has resulted in a declaration of force majeure in Yancoal's Middlemount mine. There were four other reported cases of sites which were close to declaring or have already declared force majeure, also as a result of the cyclone.

The cyclone comes at a juncture where premium met coal prices has fallen from a high of USD 310 per ton FOB Australia in November 2016 to USD 152.25 per ton

FOB Australia premium low vol coking coal.

Prices quadrupled last year due to a combination of supply issues in China and Australia.

Premium hard coking coal is a product segment where BHP has the most significant production volumes. BMA's premium coal products account for 37pct of the global seaborne supply of prime hard coals. This is inclusive of Mozambique and North American premium coal product supply sources.

The miners' products are also most widely traded in spot market. BMA's premium coal products, which are sold by the producer or by traders, accounted for 66 pct of the 2016 spot market.

BHP is also a significant player in the PCI segment, with its products accounting for 26 pct of the spot trades in 2016, making them the second most widely traded after Peabody.

Trump claims pipelines will be built with US steel



US President Trump again claimed that all pipelines will now be built with US steel even though the Keystone XL project, perhaps the highest profile pipeline in American history, will

rely heavily on foreign materials. He made the comments during brief remarks at Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington. He referenced an executive order signed earlier this year requiring that any new pipeline project use US steel.

Trump, recalling a past conversation, said that "Who makes these beautiful pipes?. They said that "They're made outside this country.' I said no more ... If you want to build pipelines in this country you're going to buy your steel here and you're going to have it fabricated here."

But the administration already has established a massive loophole in that directive. Keystone XL, a Canada-to-Texas pipeline blocked by the Obama administration and green-lighted by Trump will not use all American steel. TransCanada, the company that will build the pipeline, has said that US materials will be used for roughly half of the American portion of the project.

FOR SALE

Following Equipment of Sponge Iron Plant

- Kiln- 3.20 M Dia x 40 M long, Reduction Gear Box for driving the Kiln at 1 RPM from 940 RPM electric motor.
- Burners and motors.
- Environment Equipment – Alstom make ESP, JCT, 100 ft chimney
- Complete electrical panels, transformer 500 KVA.
- Iron ore crusher – 2 nos
- Electronic Weighing machine
- Magnetic separator

Contact Person : **SHRI. VINOD DOSHI**

Echjay Iron and Steel Division

Pen – Khopoli Road, Taluka – Pen,
Dist. Raigad (Maharashtra), **Contact No. : 022-22024044**
Email : echjay@vsnl.com