# SIZE SPECIFIC ENERGY CURVE FOR CIRCUIT REVIEW G. Ballantyne, M. Powell, B. Bonfils and M. Yahyaei

## **CASE STUDIES**

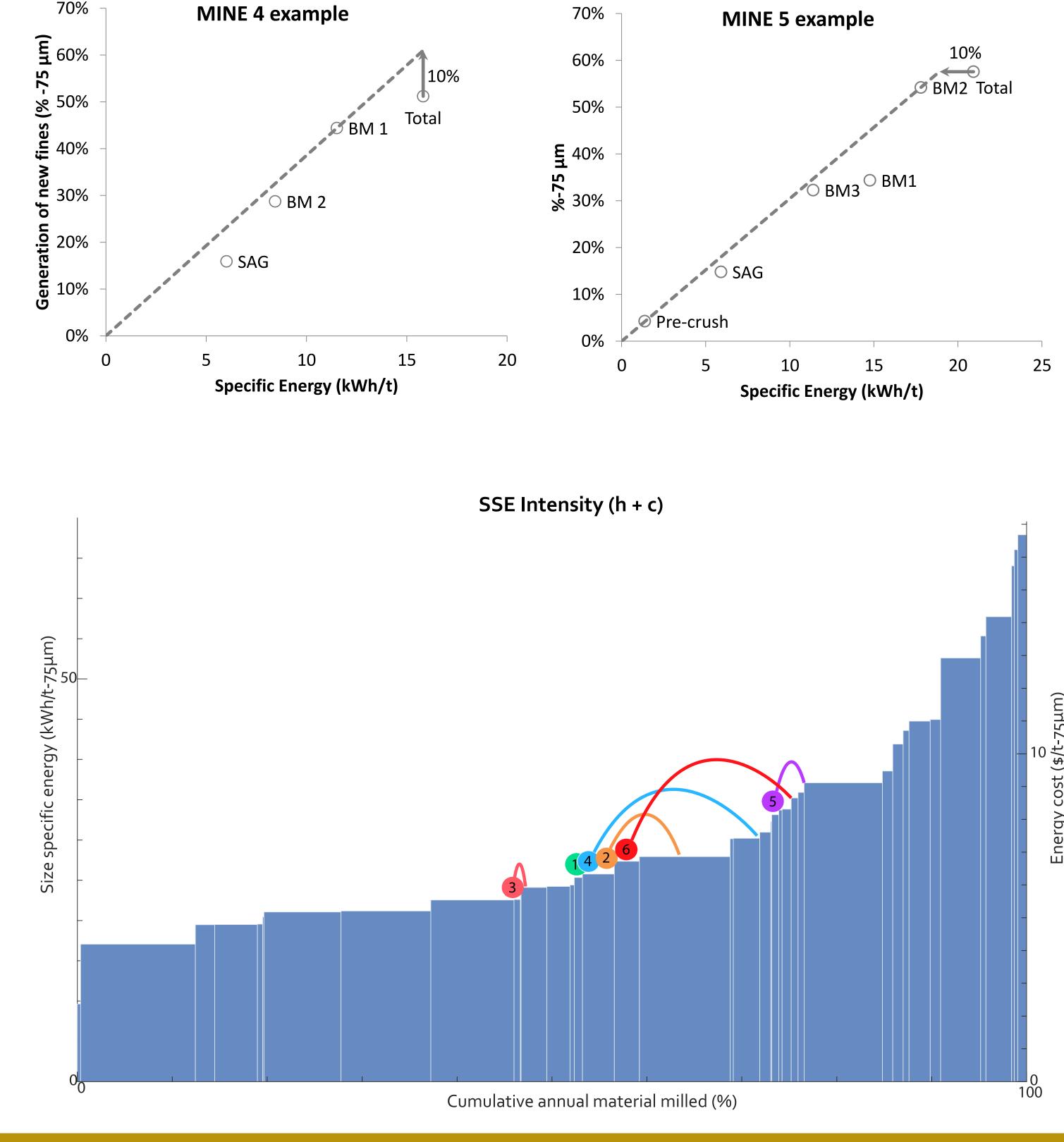
Identification of equipment inefficiencies within a circuit can be visualised using the size specific energy method and comparing the performance of each sub-circuit

- The only circuit where both the SAG and ball mill were achieving the same SSE and MINE 1 no relative underperformance was identified.
- The SAG mill was found to consume 1.2 MW more power than the ball mill and MINE 2 generate less new -75 µm material.
- There were three SAG mills and three ball mills in this circuit, although no MINE 3 equipment exceeded the prescribed threshold, two of the SAG mills were found to be slightly under achieving.

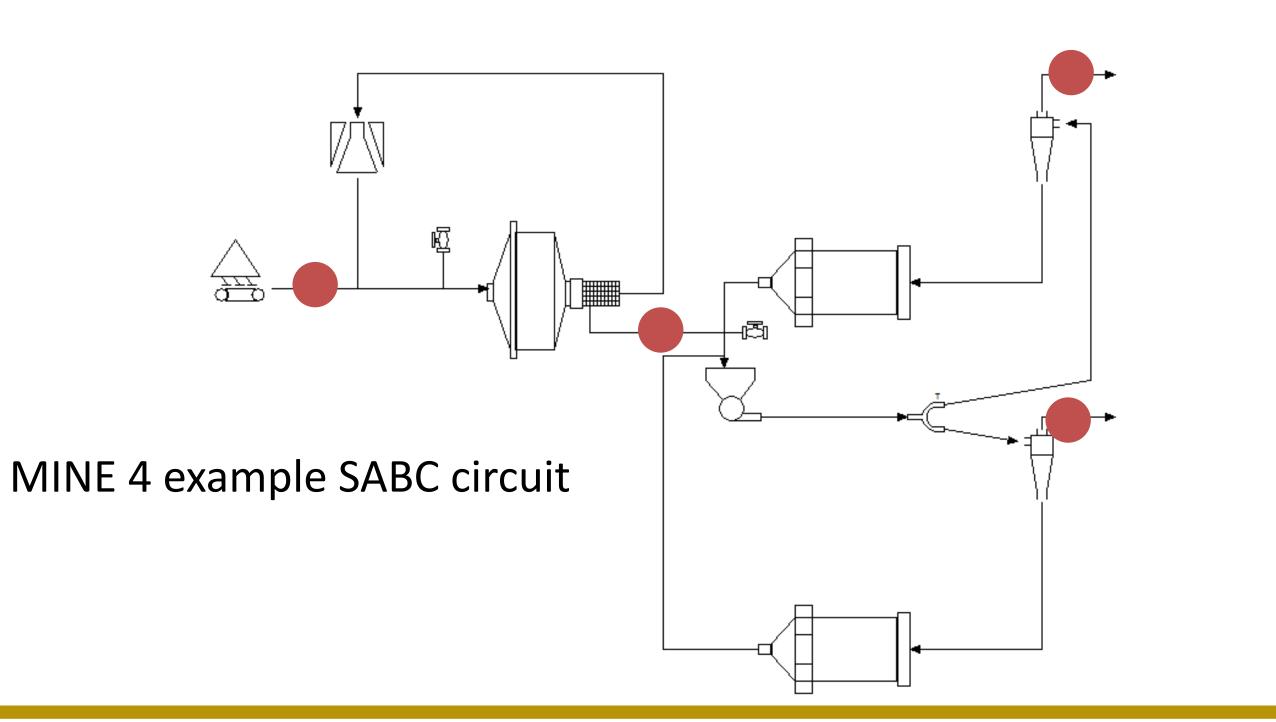
The SAG mill and one of the ball mills was identified as the limiting element due to MINE 4

### RESULTS

Generation of new -75 µm is a simplistic approximation for surface area generation and gives a more accurate prediction of equipment performance in comparison to  $P_{80}$ 

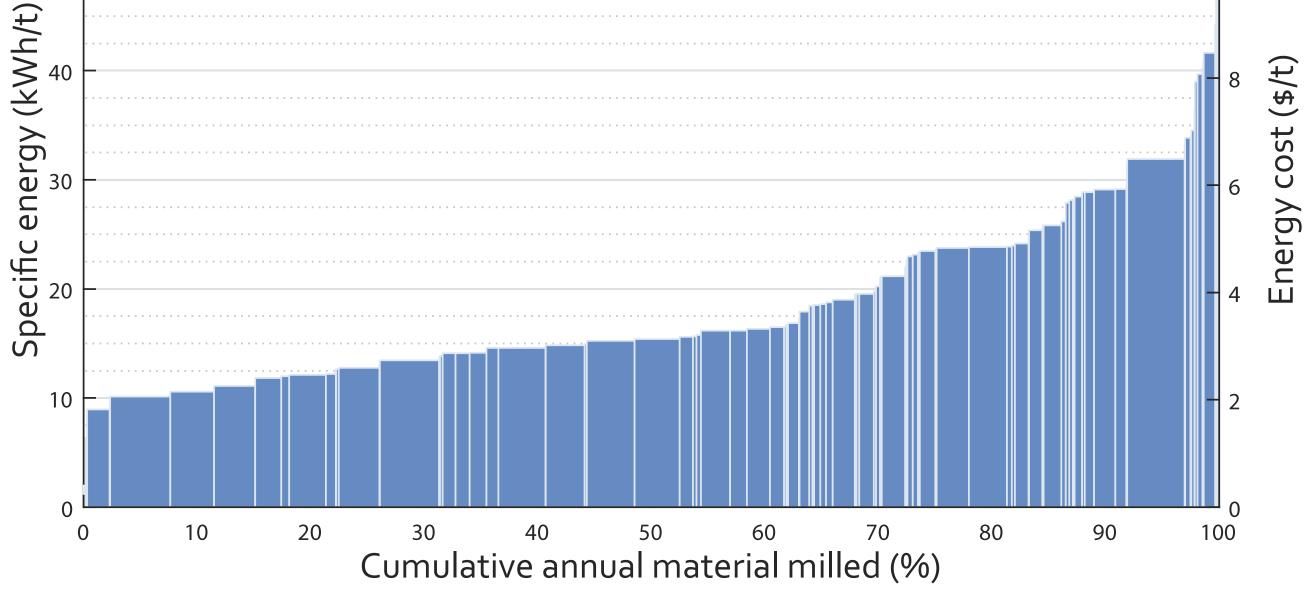


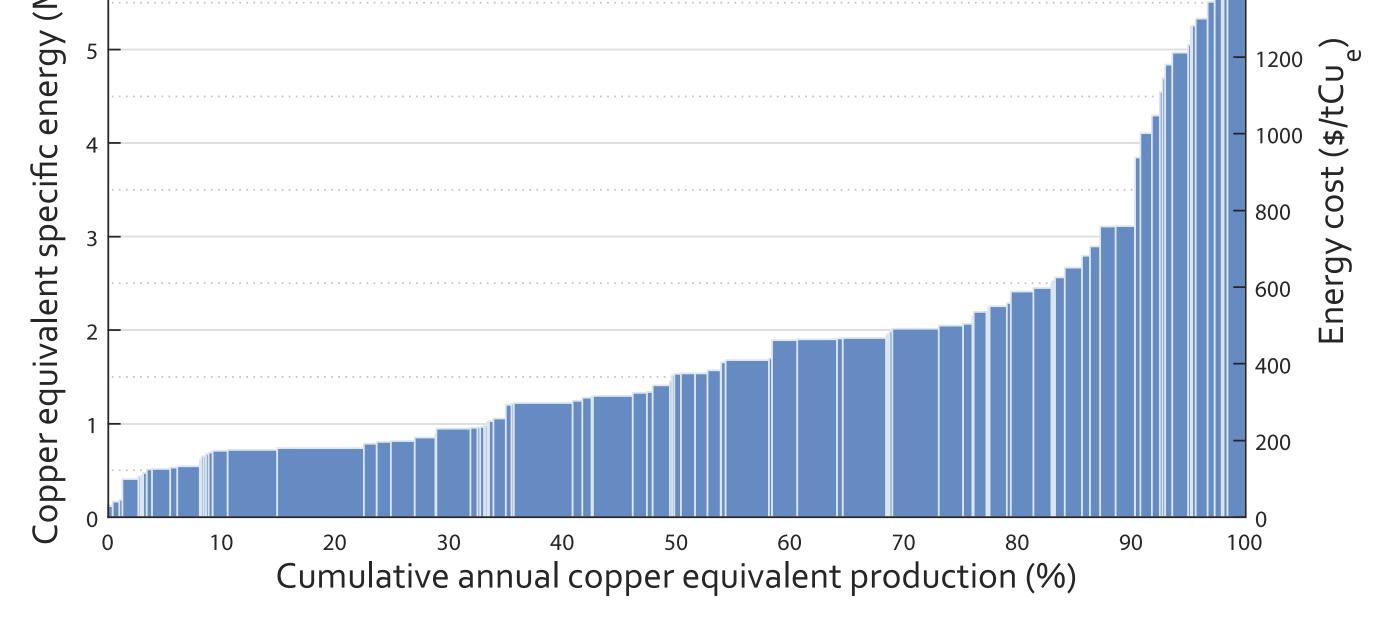
- reduced mill speed in the SAG and inefficient classification within this standard SABC circuit.
- MINE 5 One ball mill was operating with a SSE over 20% greater than that of the whole circuit, possibly due to an extremely high recirculating load, additionally the SAG mill performance was also identified as slightly reduced due low ore filling.
- Poor classification and a coarse competent feed resulted in the primary mill MINE 6 generating 7% lower -75 µm material at a slightly higher energy specific energy in comparison to the secondary mills.



#### **ENERGY CURVE SUITE**

#### Bond Intensity (h) SSE Intensity (h + c) 50 70 12 (t/45 40 16 Size specific energy (kWh/t-75µm) 10 xork index 32 30 cost (\$/t-75µm) \$/t) St puog 25 20 Energy Energy **pue** 15 Operating 2 BWi 40 50 60 50 60 70 20 30 70 80 10 20 30 40 80 90 100 10 90 100 0 0 Cumulative annual material milled (%) Cumulative annual material milled (%) Tonne Intensity (h + c + s) Grade Intensity (h + c + s + g)\* (MWh/tCu<sub>e</sub>) 60 12 1600 50 1400 10





\* (hardness + circuit + size + grade)



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