

News Release



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US EPA Administrator visits Illawarra Coal's WestVAMP

United States EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson will visit BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal's world-first WestVAMP site today.

The Administrator, who is US President George W Bush's most senior environmental advisor, and a team from the US Environmental Protection Agency will inspect the facility and meet with representatives of BHP Billiton and technology provider, MEGTEC Systems AB.

BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal's President Colin Bloomfield said the Company was delighted to showcase the world-first technology to Administrator Johnson and his associates.

"Our WestVAMP power plant is the first commercial application of this technology, which generates electricity from the extremely dilute methane in ventilation air from West Cliff mine," he said.

"This visit by Administrator Johnson provides an opportunity to observe and understand technology that can create a substantial global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from coal mining.

"This type of visit is great recognition of the successful development of our technology and its importance globally."

The \$30 million project was officially opened by the Premier of NSW, Morris Iemma, in September last year. Since the plant began operating earlier this year, WestVAMP has abated more than 225,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and has exported about 30 gigawatt hours of electricity to the West Cliff mine.

This achievement has already been recognised, with Illawarra Coal's WestVAMP power plant winning the Australian Institute of Energy's Excellence in Energy Award 2007, which acknowledges the Company's contribution to environmental improvement through the development of WestVAMP.

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