

NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

---

# Algoma Steel Inc. Cold Mill Digital Journey

John Gardner and Michael McCracken

**AVEVA**



## John Gardner

### Senior Analyst/Programmer

- Algoma Steel Inc.
- John.Gardner@Algoma.com
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-gardner-4b1b2a161/>

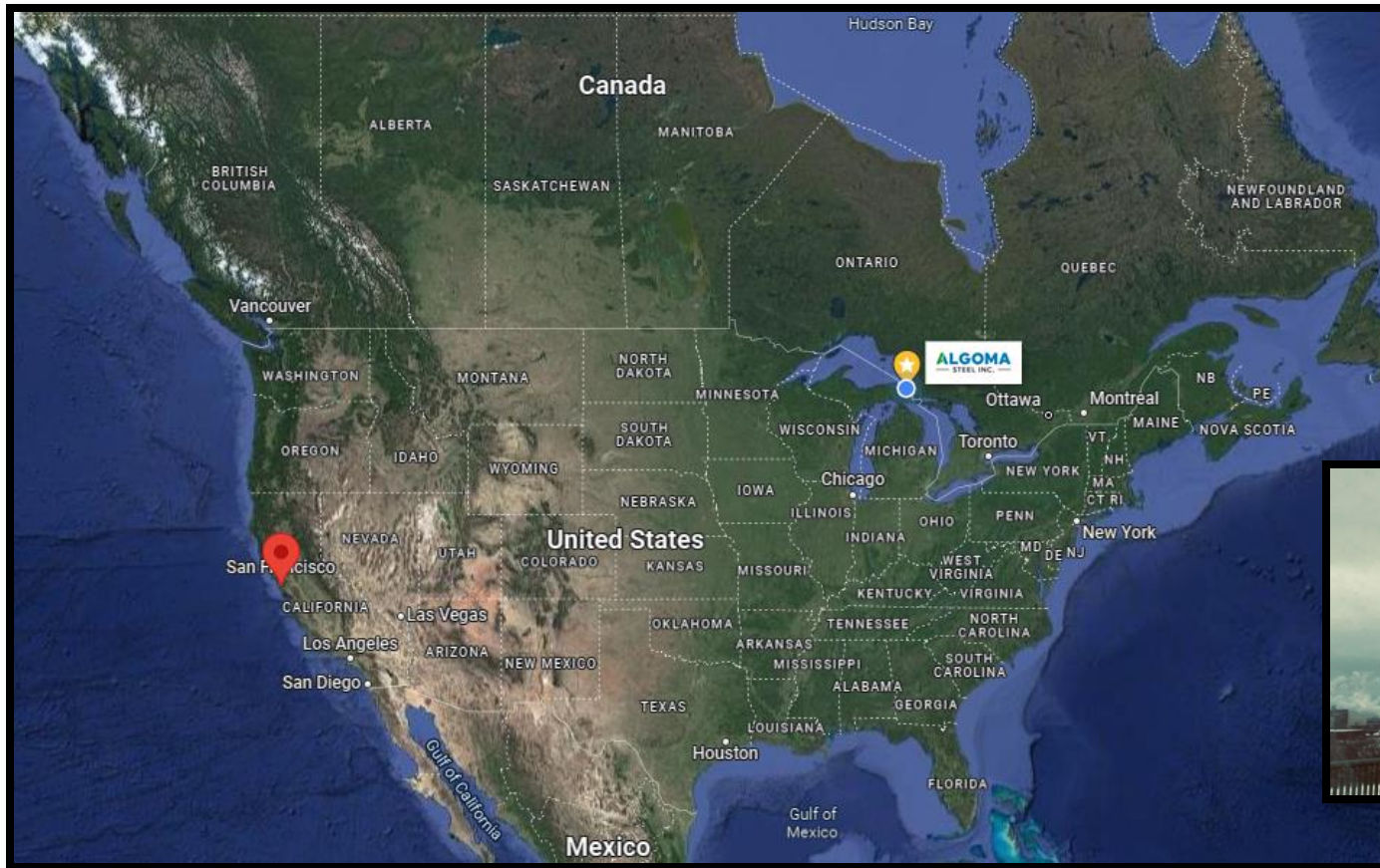


## Michael McCracken

### Process Specialist

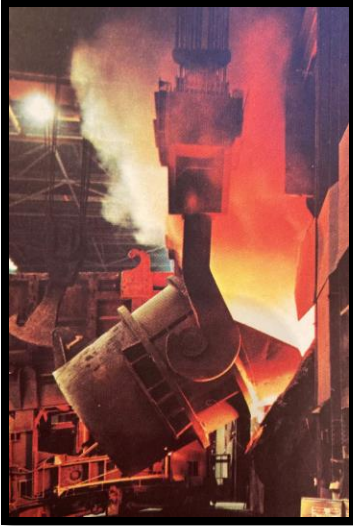
- Michael.McCracken@Algoma.com
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-mccracken-96352375/>

- Algoma Steel is a fully integrated steel producer based in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
- We're committed to continuing our rich 121-year steelmaking tradition.
- 1,700 acre site located at the border of United States and Canada





- Our Direct Strip Production Complex (DSPC) is the newest facility of its kind on the continent. It transforms liquid steel to a finished coil in minutes.

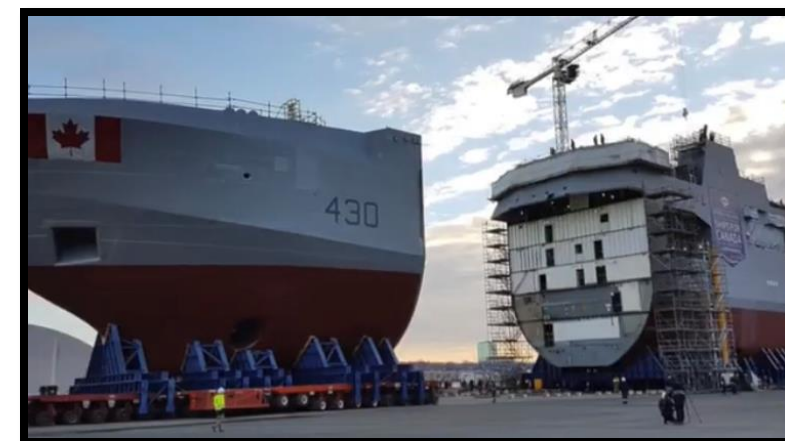
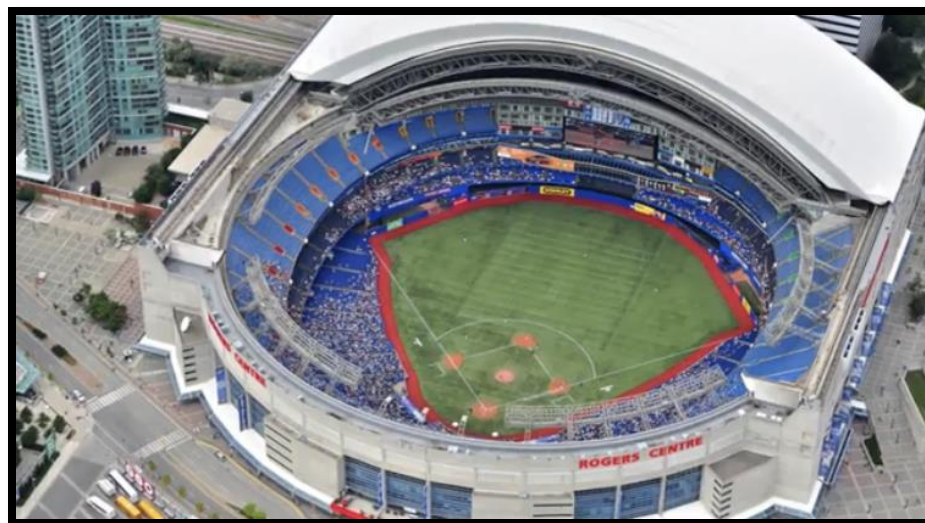


- Our highly versatile plate and strip complex produces a full range of as-rolled and heat-treated plate and some of the widest coils available.

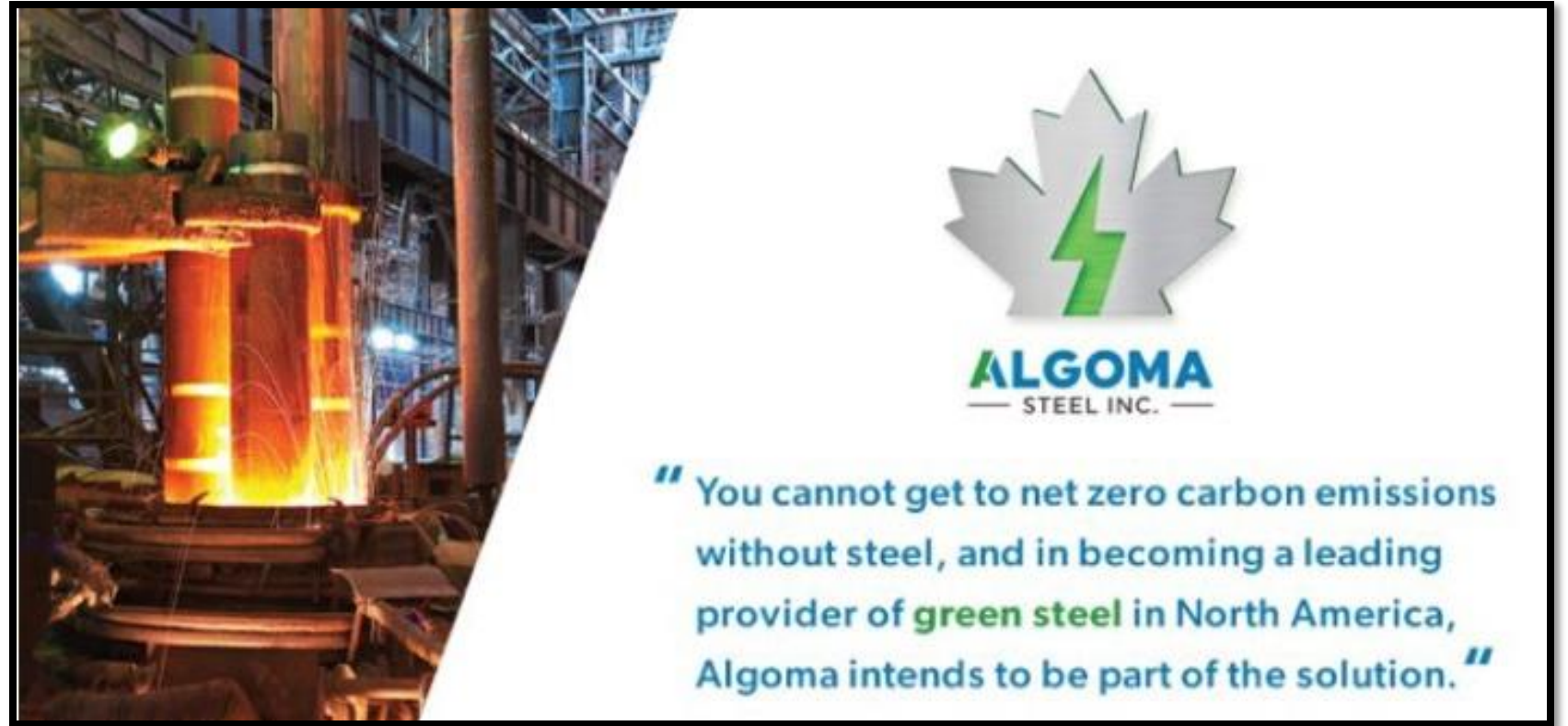




- Algoma Steel's quality products meet and exceed international industrial performance standards for numerous sectors including; manufacturing, automotive, construction, infrastructure, energy, transportation and military applications.

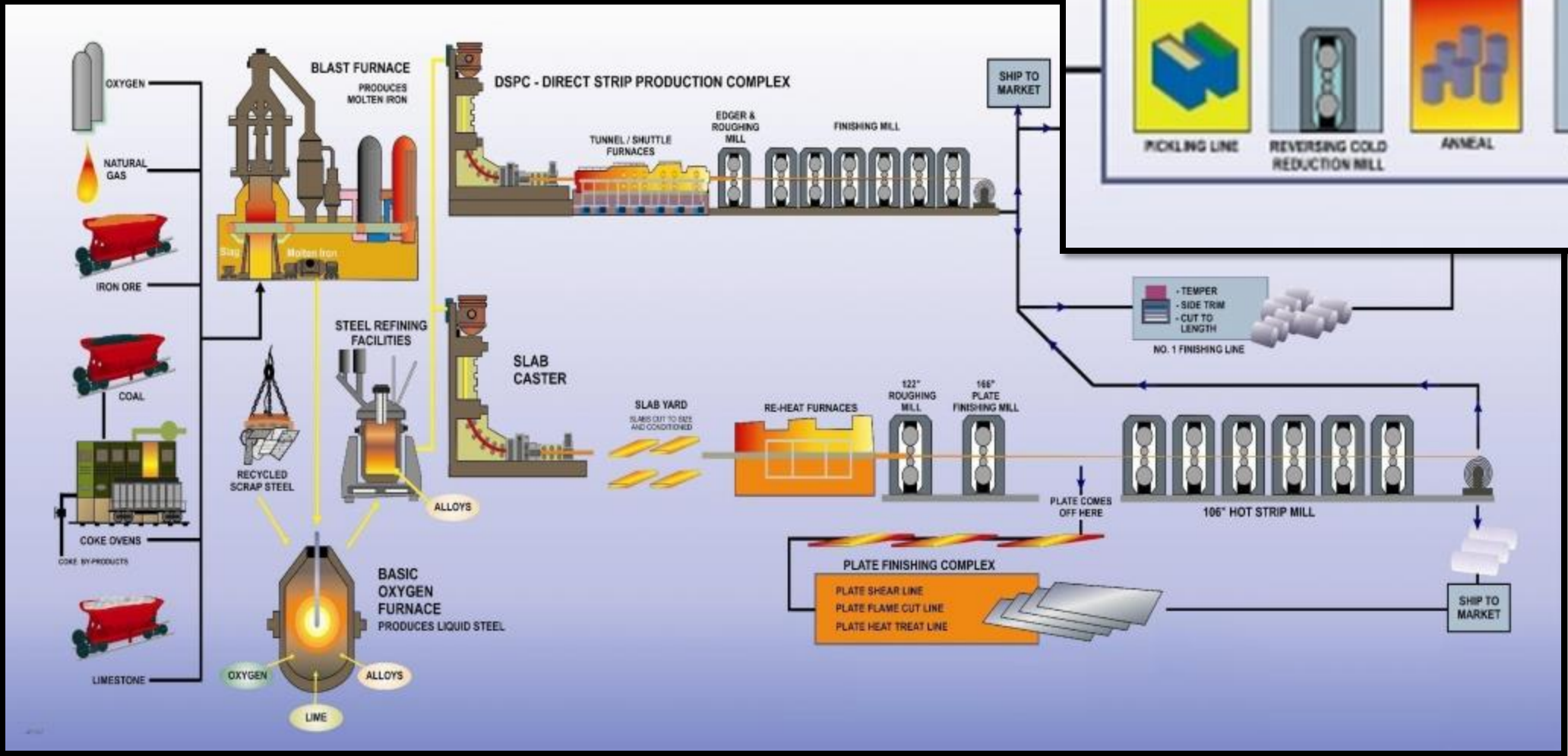


- Algoma Steel Group Inc. (NASDAQ: ASTL; TSX: ASTL), a leading Canadian producer of hot and cold rolled steel sheet and plate products, recently announced that its Board of Directors has authorized the ***construction of two new state-of-the-art electric-arc-furnaces (EAF)*** to replace its existing blast furnace and basic oxygen steelmaking operations.
- ***The \$700 million transformation is expected to reduce Algoma's carbon emissions by approximately 70%.***





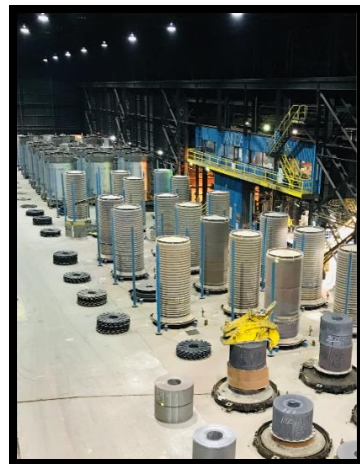
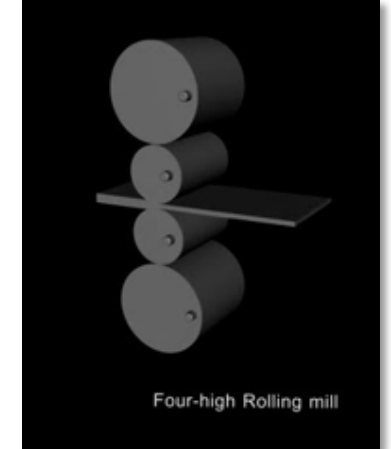
# Algoma Steel - Operational Areas





## Algoma Steel's Cold Mill is a 400,000 sq. ft Complex

- Operating Units
  - 100" Continuous Pickle Line
  - 80" 4-high Reduction Mill
  - Anneal Facility
  - 80" 4-high Temper Mill
  - 74" Slitting Line
  - Coil Wrap Line





“PI Vision gives me a snapshot of our mill at my fingertips 24/7.”

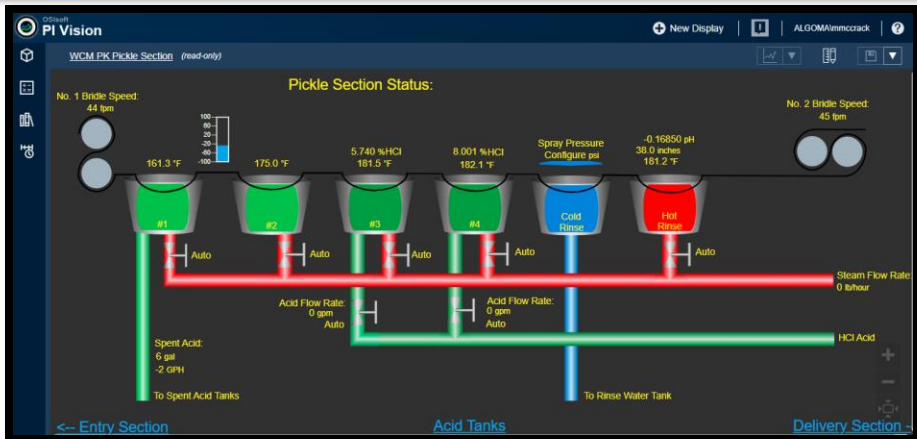
“PI provides us the means to continuously monitor operations as well as control our manufacturing rates.”

“Steam alarms allow us to react to low steam pressure to mitigate downtime while increasing production.”

**Chad Leask**  
**Superintendent – Cold Mill Operations**  
**Algoma Steel Inc.**

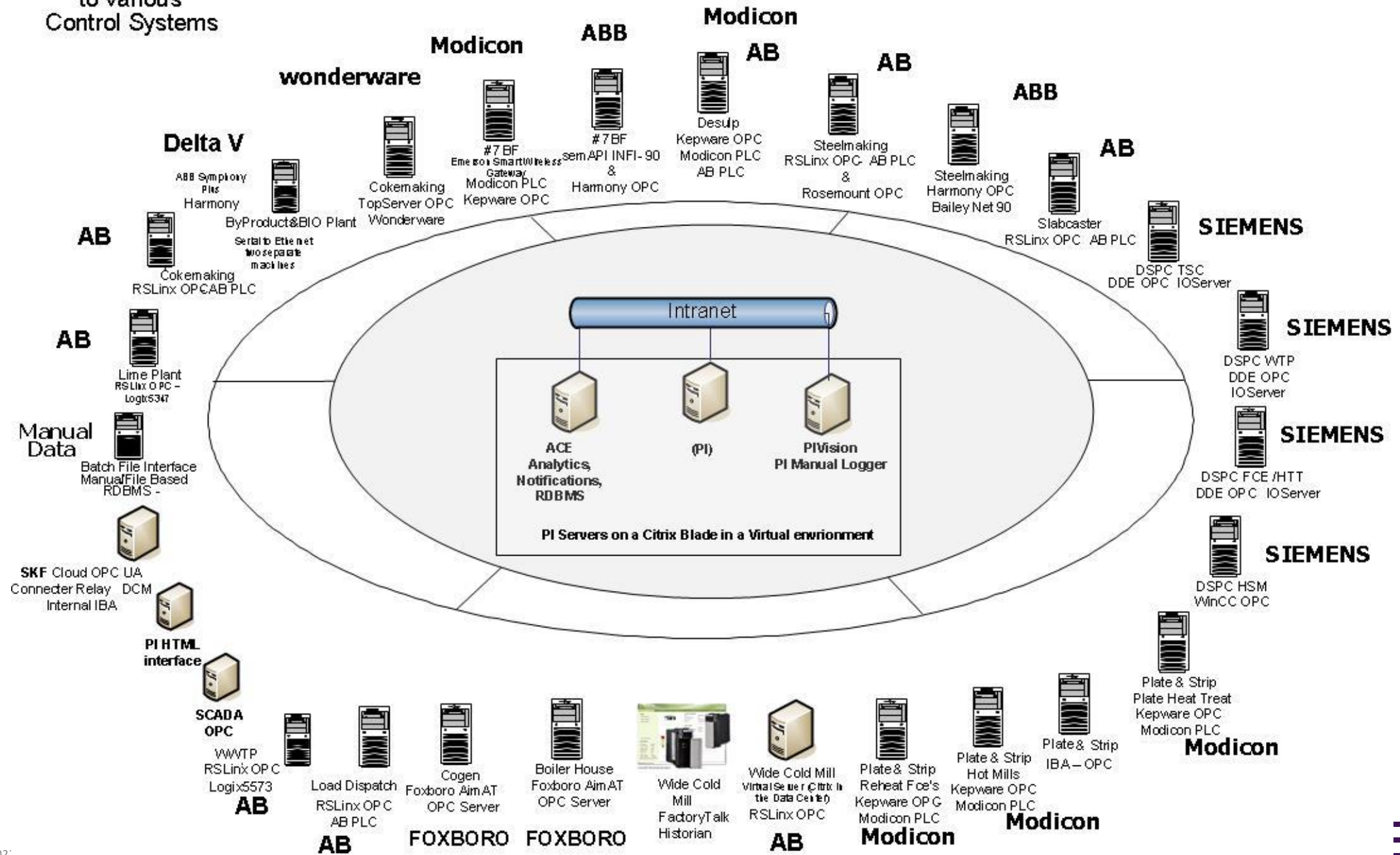
## Brief history of the AVEVA PI System

- Algoma started its OsiSoft PI journey beginning in 1995 with the first archives in January of 1996.
  - It was initially purchased to help monitor and store Ironmaking Blast furnace sensor data.
- The initial Archive size was 64 MB and the data collected would not fill the prior to a 90 day (quarterly shift).
- The initial growth was steady and in 2007 a 1024 MB archive would fill every 10 days.
- In 2015 we upgraded to a 64-bit virtual environment for our Main PI Servers (Data archive, PIVision, and AF/Ace)
  - The previous PI servers were 32 bit servers that were over 10 years old.
- We are now running the latest AVEVA PI Server, PI AF, and AVEVA PI Vision.
- We now have over 50,000 tags
- Our 2048 MB archives fill every 3 days.
- We have around 12,000 ProcessBook and 1500 AVEVA PI Vision screens.





30+ Interfaces  
to various  
Control Systems



---

# Cold Mill Limited Digital Footprint





# Limited Digital Footprint



## Challenge

- Very Reactive with lack of urgency
- No Automated Equipment monitoring and feedback
- Lack of Data availability and visibility
- Lack of PI interest and understanding

## Solution

- Implemented Key KPI's that would send PI - Notifications
- Equipment/system fault Notifications to critical parties.
- Focused on adding additional tags with PI AF and AVEVA PI Vision understanding to maximize value
- Moved off of Processbook completely with AVEVA PI Vision screens focused on Operations.
- Created a Bi-weekly meeting
- Focused training to Key personal

## Benefits

- This helped introduce an urgency towards repairs and uptime.
- One of the many AVEVA PI System notifications prevents coolant waste saving (\$100K/year)
- Increases response time, gives us historical review options
- Increased engagement from the shop floor to Management level.
- Everyone is now engaged in building and monitoring
- Change is being driven by many people now.

# Challenge in The Anneal: We did not have adequate, live monitoring in place to ensure statistical process control.



“Annealing an imperative and critical operation in our Cold Roll process to meet the metallurgical demands of our different products.”  
Michael McCracken, Process Specialist



# AVEVA



- Annealing is a heat treatment process that alters the microstructure of our steel to increase its ductility and reduce its hardness.
- Changing these mechanical properties through annealing is important to improve formability, machinability and to remove residual stresses that may cause the steel to crack.
- Each base charge consists of 3 coils (65 tons) stacked on top of each other.
- Charges controlled by Computerized Annealing Processing Software (CAPS)



PI Vision

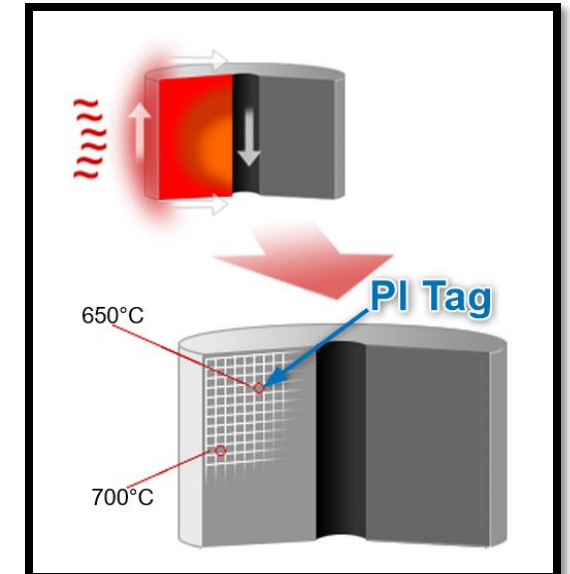
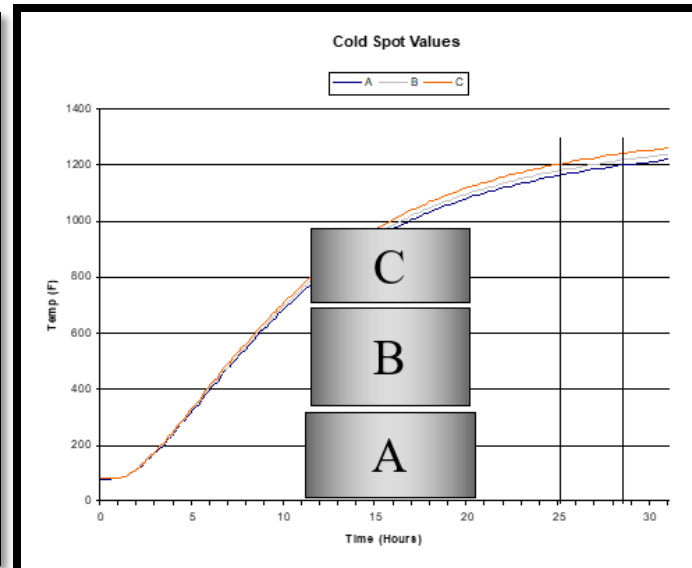
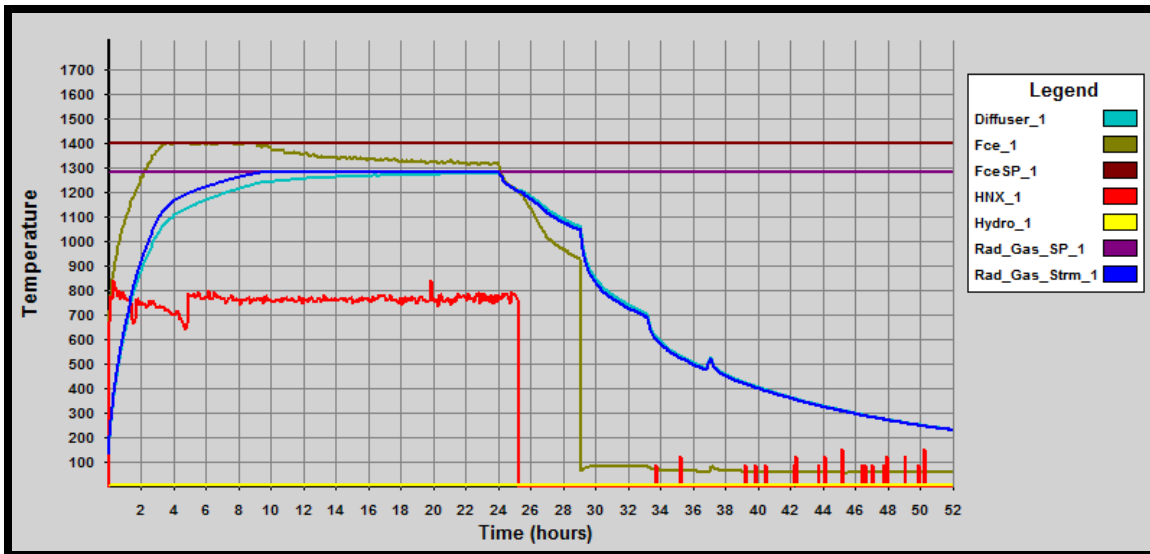
WCM Anneal Bases in Fire Status

Anneal Bases in Fire status

Name	Value	Units	Trend
Base 01 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,326.6	°F	
Base 02 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,343	°F	
Base 03 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,323.2	°F	
Base 04 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,312.3	°F	
Base 05 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,354.3	°F	
Base 06 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,347.4	°F	
Base 16 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,296.8	°F	
Base 17 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	942.4	°F	
Base 30 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,396.5	°F	
Base 32 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,325	°F	
Base 33 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	970.9	°F	
Base 46 Furnace Thermocouple - Actual	1,351	°F	

3 main stages of annealing are;

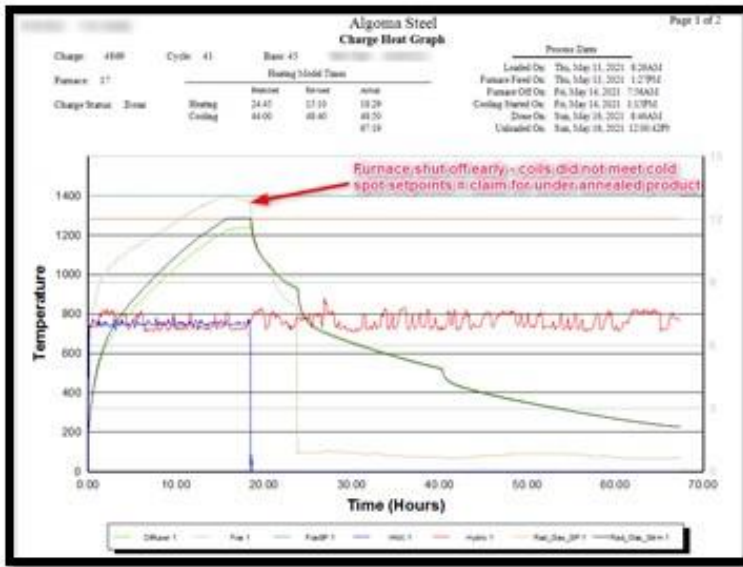
- **Recovery:** Furnace raises temperature to relieve internal stresses
- **Recrystallization:** Steel heated above recrystallization temperature but below its melting temperature causing new grains to form. To ensure the steel has been heated to the correct temperature and duration, the CAPs model predicts the cold spot temperature of each coil.
- **Grain Growth:** Once all 3 coils have achieved the minimum **required heating cold spot**, the model will automatically shut the furnace off, begin cooling and the grain growth stage.





## Before PI tag and alarms:

- Model failure(s) caused the furnace to shut off prematurely.
- Although the report indicated the coils did not meet their required cold spot, operations was not aware that the steel was under annealed without manually reviewing each charge.
- Volume of monthly production (250 charges and \$15 million product value)
- More than \$250,000 in claims and internal rejects annually.



Algoma Steel  
Charge Report

Charge: 4869 Base: 45 Description: Substitution: No

Furnace: 17 Cooler: Status: Done Build Mode: Manual On: Thu, May 13, 2021 8:26:21AM

Cycle: 41 Planned By: anneal

HotSpot: 1285 F ColdSpot: 1180 F

Process Dates  
Loaded On: Thu, May 13, 2021 8:26AM  
Furnace Fired On: Thu, May 13, 2021 1:27PM  
Furnace Off On: Fri, May 14, 2021 7:56AM  
Cooling Started On: Fri, May 14, 2021 8:46AM  
Done On: Sun, May 16, 2021 8:46AM  
Unloaded On: Sun, May 16, 2021 12:00:42PM

Heating Model Times  
Heating: 24:45  
Cooling: 44:00  
Total: 68:45

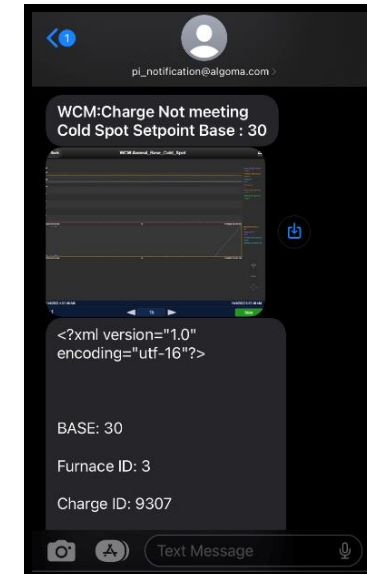
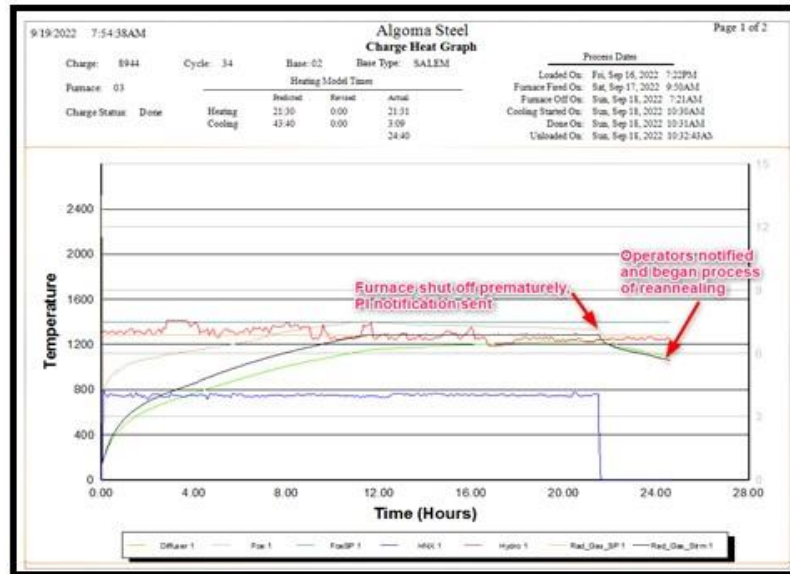
Actual Times  
Heating: 15:10  
Cooling: 48:40  
Total: 63:50

Pos Loc	Coil	Grade	Weight	Width	Gauge	Cycle	CO	Req. Heating HotSpot	Act. Heating HotSpot	Req. Heating ColdSpot	Act. Heating ColdSpot	ColdSpot Time Reached	Act. Cooling HotSpot
7	RCV2351	ASTMA1008 DS TY B	32.910	48.12	0.0577	41	60.00	1285	1260	1180	1047		279
M	RCV4690	ASTMA1008 DS TY B	46.870	60.19	0.0574	41	64.00	1285	1236	1180	985		299
B	RCV2341	ASTMA1008 DS TY B	46.970	48.12	0.0577	41	70.00	1285	1259	1180	1014		298



## After Implementing PI tag and alarm: “WCM: Charge Not meeting Cold Spot Setpoint”

- Model and furnace failure captured in AVEVA PI System.
- AVEVA PI System notification sent to operations, maintenance, quality assurance and the technical team.
- Preventing unnecessary handling, further processing of material, delayed shipments to customer, rejects, and non-conforming product from leaving the anneal.
- RCA initiated and resolved for model and furnace failures – more PI alarms implemented
  - Natural Gas Pressure and Flow
  - Maxon Valve Function
  - Critical Temperatures

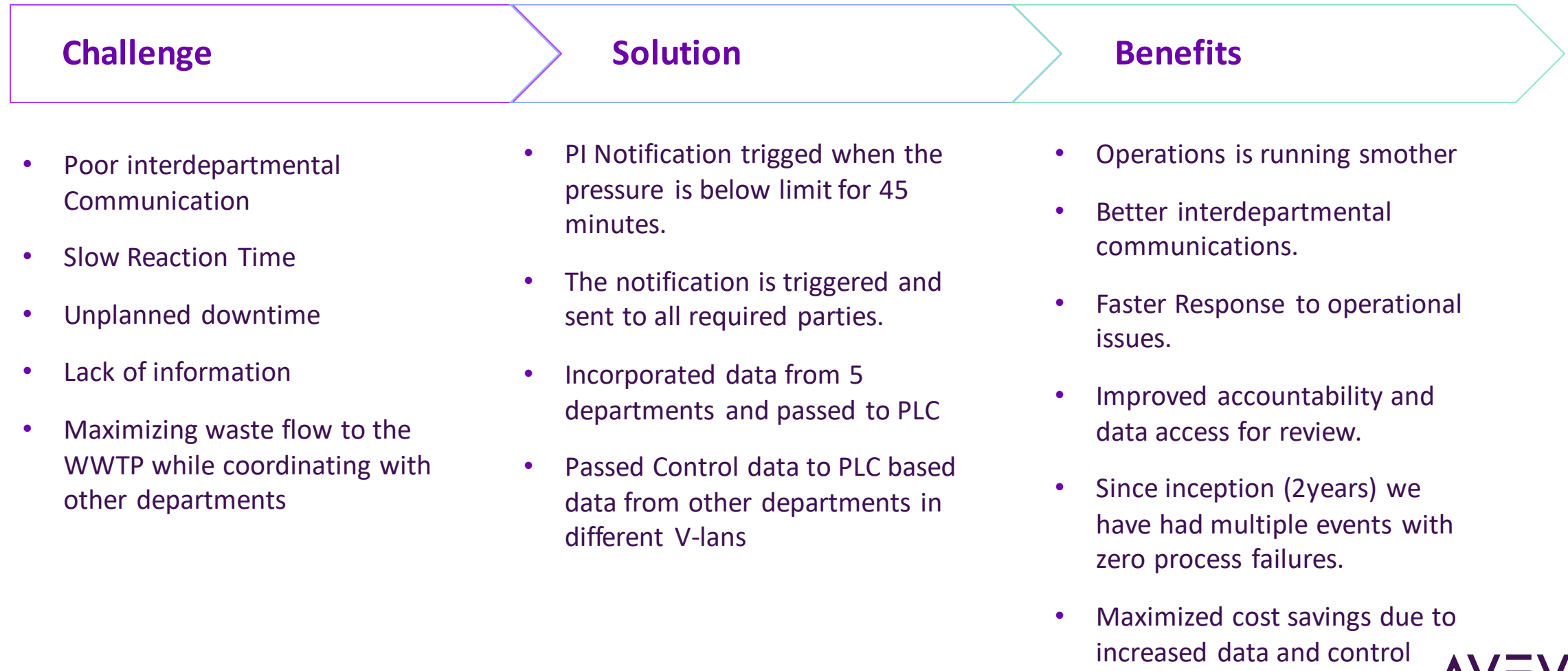


---

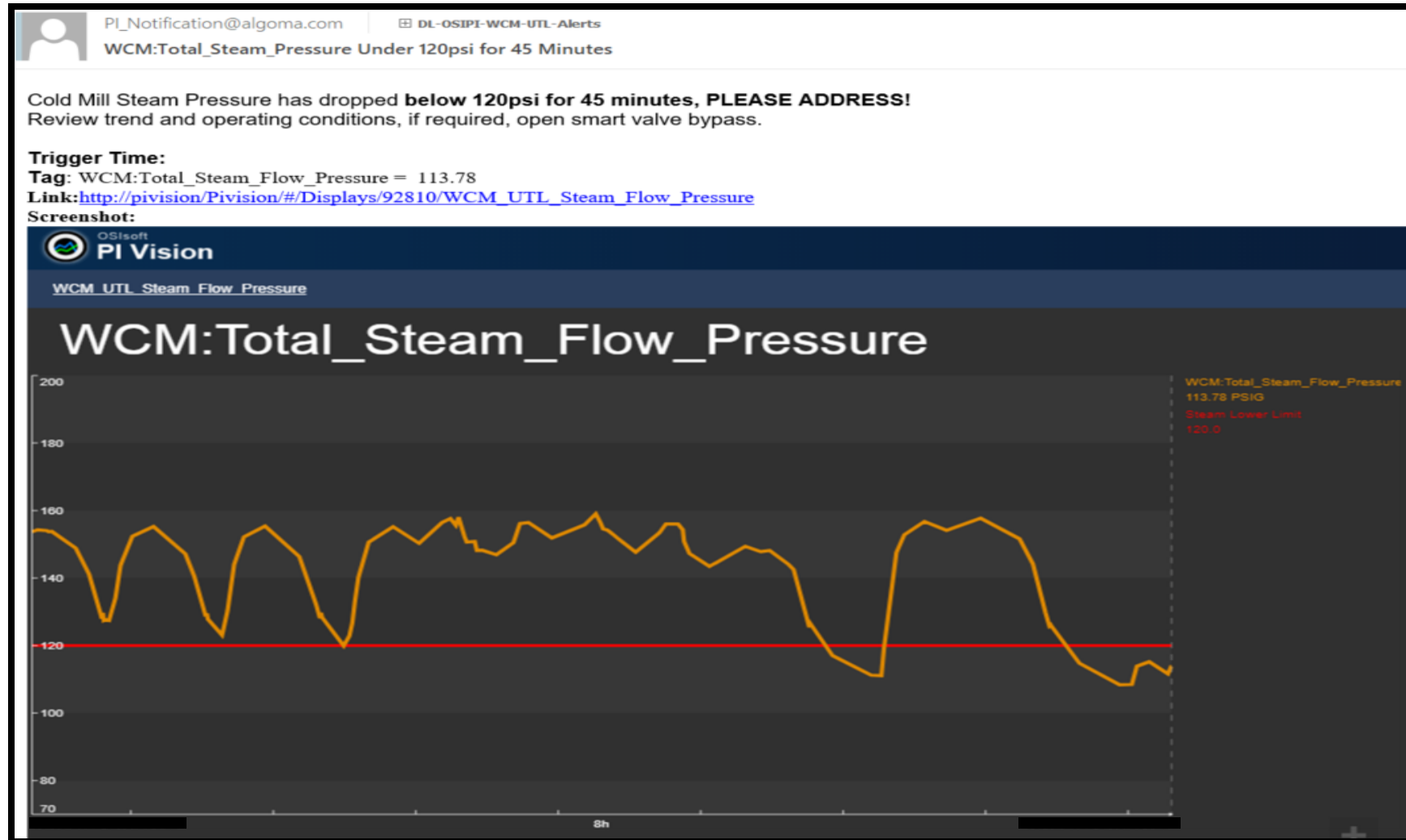
# Communication Challenges impact the Cold Mill.



# Communication Challenges impact the Cold Mill.



# Easily build Email Notifications and imbed PIVision



# Example of Departmental Coordination in an analysis



## Determining if Our SM department is running and passing that to the PLC

Name	Expression
FCE4	<code>if TimeEq('SM:BOF FCE4 O2 BLOWING', '-45m', '*', "NO") &gt; 2500 then 0 else 1</code>
FCE5	<code>//Was 2699 seconds, changed to 2500 seconds temporarily due to time sync issue. if TimeEq('SM:BOF FCE5 O2 BLOWING', '-45m', '*', "NO") &gt; 2500 then 0 else 1</code>
SMO2_Blowing	<code>//Was 2699 seconds, changed to 2500 seconds temporarily due to time sync issue. if FCE4 = 0 and FCE5 = 0 then 0 else 1</code>

## Data cleanse and pass control information to the PLC

Expression
<code>if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' = "Bad" then 0 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' = "No Data" then 0 else if 'WCM:PK Waste Acid Tank Level' = "Configure" then 0 else if 'WCM:PK WPL Dosing Flow' = "Configure" then 0 else if TimeGE('WCM:PK Waste Rinse Tank Level', '-30m', '*', 78) = 0 then 0 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 14 then 0 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 11.4 then 12 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 11.3 then 11 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 11.2 then 10 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 11.1 then 9 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 11.0 then 8 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.9 then 7 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.8 then 6 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.7 then 5 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.6 then 4 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.5 then 3 else if 'SPP No.1 Thickener PH' &gt;= 10.4 then 2 else 0</code>





# Future Outlook

- Exciting opportunities and deeper expansion in all Cold Mill areas.
- Move towards paperless reporting.
- Looking to incorporate SAP and PI Data.
- Implementing some Condition Based Maintenance.
- Exciting opportunities in expanding to the EAF.
- Better communication and coordination between:
  - IT, Management, Automation, Supervisors, Operators, Departments

## Key Point

- You don't need a major Capex project and investment
- You don't need a large group of people
- What is required is ongoing focus and small gains leading to huge changes
- Focusing on keeping momentum and continuous improvement





## John Gardner

### Senior Analyst/Programmer

- Algoma Steel Inc.
- [John.Gardner@Algoma.com](mailto:John.Gardner@Algoma.com)
- Feel free to contact me on Linked in as well



## Michael McCracken

### Process Specialist

- [Michael.McCracken@Algoma.com](mailto:Michael.McCracken@Algoma.com)
- Feel free to contact me on Linked in as well

# Questions?

Please wait for the microphone.  
State your name and company.



# Please remember to...

Navigate to this session in the mobile app to complete the survey.




# Thank you!



This presentation may include predictions, estimates, intentions, beliefs and other statements that are or may be construed as being forward-looking. While these forward-looking statements represent our current judgment on what the future holds, they are subject to risks and uncertainties that could result in actual outcomes differing materially from those projected in these statements. No statement contained herein constitutes a commitment by AVEVA to perform any particular action or to deliver any particular product or product features. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect our opinions only as of the date of this presentation.

The Company shall not be obliged to disclose any revision to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date on which they are made or to reflect the occurrence of future events.

 [linkedin.com/company/aveva](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aveva)

 [@avevagroup](https://twitter.com/avevagroup)

#### ABOUT AVEVA

AVEVA is a global leader in industrial software, sparking ingenuity to drive responsible use of the world's resources. The company's secure industrial cloud platform and applications enable businesses to harness the power of their information and improve collaboration with customers, suppliers and partners.

Over 20,000 enterprises in over 100 countries rely on AVEVA to help them deliver life's essentials: safe and reliable energy, food, medicines, infrastructure and more. By connecting people with trusted information and AI-enriched insights, AVEVA enables teams to engineer efficiently and optimize operations, driving growth and sustainability.

Named as one of the world's most innovative companies, AVEVA supports customers with open solutions and the expertise of more than 6,400 employees, 5,000 partners and 5,700 certified developers. With operations around the globe, we are headquartered in Cambridge, UK and listed on the London Stock Exchange's FTSE 100.

Learn more at [www.aveva.com](https://www.aveva.com)