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Minera Alumbraera Ltd.

Location: Catamarca province, Argentina

AMECO Project Quick Facts:

Project Duration: 1995-1998

Scope of Services: General construction equipment supply and maintenance, tools, supplies, consumables, safety equipment, construction site services management, and site management systems

AMECO's first project in Argentina, Alumbraera, was a grassroots copper and gold mine with a useful life of 20 years. The site was located 9,000 feet above sea level and 280 kilometers from the closest major city, Tucuman. Weather conditions ranged from 100° (summer) to 0° (winter).

The total scope of the Alumbraera project included mine development, primary crusher, concentrator area (including the ball and sag mills), and flotation cells. The project also required construction and/or upgrades for a 240-kilometer high-voltage transmission line, a 220-kilometer condensation pipeline, airport, filter plant, power substation, pump stations, rail line improvements, and port loading facilities.

AMECO supplied heavy dirt equipment, cranes, transportation for craft-workers, pipeline equipment, cement hauling, heavy transport, a concrete batch plant, screening plants, power generation, and miscellaneous construction equipment. Argentina lacked the necessary resources, so 70% of equipment and 80% of tools used had to be shipped from the US. AMECO handled all the packing, shipping, and customs clearance services.

At the peak of construction, AMECO had 80 equipment fleet and maintenance related personnel and 40 tool personnel.

AMECO's value to Alumbraera:

- AMECO had no lost-time accidents
- AMECO saved Alumbraera money by transitioning the equipment and tools used during construction into the mine's operation as support equipment

Project statistics:

- Peak workforce - 4,500
- Total craft hours - 6.5 million
- Major pieces of equipment - 475



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