

# How a 7-mile-long Continental conveyor helped Dolet Hills Mining Venture win a 2.5 million tons per year contract



*A 7-mile-long overland Continental conveyor carries 14,000 to 15,000 tons of lignite daily.*

## **Continental conveyor pays its way with lower operating and maintenance costs.**

Dolet Hills Mining Venture, in operation since 1985, has a 25-year, 2.5 million tons per year contract to supply lignite to a power plant. A Continental Conveyor overland conveyor system, consisting of four separate flights, carries the lignite over 7 miles of hilly Louisiana terrain.

Competing for the contract against eight other firms, Dolet Hills proposed a unique solution:

Transport the lignite using Continental conveyors. This allowed Dolet Hills to locate the loading point at the least costly mine site, where overburden is thinnest.

"By using a Continental conveyor, we were able to mine in an area with a low stripping ratio," says Mine Manager John Schocke. "Because of the size of the contract, the higher capital cost of the conveyor was offset by lower maintenance and operating costs."

The lignite is black, porous, with 7,000 BTU per pound. Overburden is mostly silt, sand, and clay—relatively easy and inexpensive to strip. Mineable seams average 3–9

feet in thickness; the lignite is not blasted or ripped, but broken by a backhoe as it is loaded.

## **A cost-effective alternative to hauling by truck**

By providing a conveyor that reliably hauls lignite 7 miles, Continental eliminated the cost of building and maintaining roads for hauling lignite by truck. "We were faced with building a 9–10 mile road in an area where roadway materials are hard to find and must be hauled in," says Schocke. (The Dolet Hills Mining Venture is located just south of Shreveport, Louisiana.)



"The Continental conveyor provided a more cost-effective and environmentally acceptable alternative."

### "Little or no replacement of conveyor parts"

"As far as reliability goes, the Continental conveyor is excellent," notes Schocke.

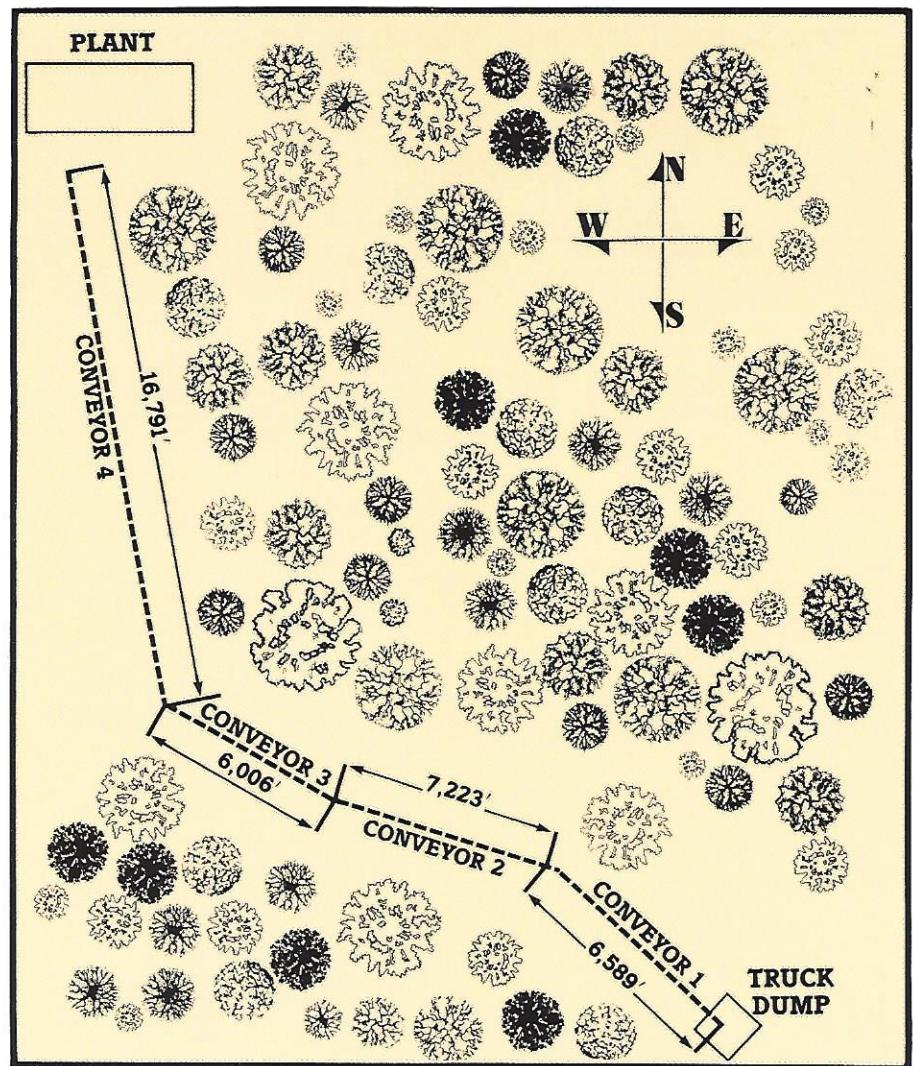
"The system now hauls 2.5 million tons per year and is designed to handle twice that. In 3 years of operation, there has been little or no replacement of conveyor parts. Our conveyor has something like 40,000 bearings, and we lost maybe 2. That amazes me.

"I'm also impressed with the conveyor's programmable controller, also furnished by Continental Conveyor. If there's a misalignment, plugged chute, overtorque, or any other major problem, the programmable controller analyzes signals transmitted by the conveyor and shuts the drive down. And it works!"

### "The cleanest conveyor I've ever been around"

"The Continental belt is the cleanest conveyor I've ever been around. Reason: The belt does a 180-degree turnover at each end, so that the dirty side always faces up, preventing spillage along the length of the conveyor and necessitating clean-up at the ends only.

"Because the whole system is so clean and operates so well, we're



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able to run the entire 7 miles of conveyor with only two people per shift!"


### Continental Conveyor: "An important part of our success"

"The Continental conveyor system helps us deliver the tonnage required at the price our customer agreed to pay. Most people would look at Dolet Hills and agree that this is a successful mine-mouth operation. And the Continental conveyor is certainly an important part of our success."

For more information and a free conveyor catalog, call or write Continental Conveyor today.



Belt capacity is 1,500 tons per hour at 800 feet per minute. Belt width is 36 inches.

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