

GOLD MINING COMPANY
Nevada

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE:

Obtain a lighting solution that is powerful and versatile enough to provide safe and even lighting at critical areas around the mine site.

SOLUTION:

Generac Mobile MLT6SMD light tower

RESULT:

A diesel-powered lighting solution that provides powerful, consistent lighting around the site while saving the customer time and money.

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Lighting Worth Its Weight in Gold

Finding gold is the objective. A globally recognized mining company in the state of Nevada has mastered finding the mineral. Their massive operation includes numerous mines that helped produce several million ounces of gold in 2018. Mining valuable minerals and other geological materials is not always easy. Most of the resources are buried underground, in remote areas, and in hard-to-reach places. Mining can be dangerous for workers, and accidents can happen, especially if there isn't enough lighting. Mining locations can also lack reliable power networks, which can cause safety issues.

At the Nevada gold mine, there are no permanent lights on the haul road. To light the way, the mine uses mobile light towers because they offer versatility and maneuverability while lighting the work site. It is part of Maintenance Superintendent Bob Metz's job to supervise the haul truck and dozer operators. This includes moving and positioning the light towers. Mobile light towers are used to light critical areas and Metz must move the lights each shift in commensurate with mine road/dump area development.

“Light towers are necessary to safely show the way around the site,” said Greg Enright, senior field service manager, Generac Mobile. “So for instance, a mining truck can see the ground from their raised position.” Enright said lighting is critical to mine

workers since they depend heavily on visual cues. “Without lights or with poor lighting, there are several safety risks,” he said. “The types of trucks used in mining are enormous, and with inadequate lighting, the hazards increase. Trucks can run into other equipment, and, more importantly, in low lighting situations workers can get hurt from trips, falls and unseen hazards. Having automated settings can really enhance safety in these locations. Auto-start as well as dusk-to-dawn sensors are features that many companies look for when purchasing a light tower to help ensure the work site is always well lit. Which is why many customers choose to upgrade to Generac Mobile's Power Zone controllers on their towers. Whether it is a timed start and stop setting or the dusk-to-dawn sensor, automating the lighting on the site gives management and workers one less thing to worry about.

This mine site was previously operating a dozen light towers that were over a decade old. A major problem for Metz and the mine was that the older towers didn't light the area as well as they needed. To compensate, they were adding more towers to light the work area. This was costing the company time and money. In the end, it was determined the mine needed to invest in new, updated light towers.

Every mine is different and their lighting needs will vary. Metz turned to Generac



APPLICATION:

Mining

MODELS:

MLT6SMD Light Tower

Mobile for lighting advice. Based on the customer's needs, the experts at Generac recommended the mine bring in new MLT6SMD light towers to their site. Featuring the latest LED lighting technology, the MLT6SMD provides powerful, consistent lighting. This light tower was also recommended due to its extended run time of as much as 203 hours on a single tank of fuel. In the mine's remote location, the extended run time helps to conserve the much needed fuel that can be used in other equipment. Also, standard on the MLT6SMD light tower is the Power Zone® PLUS controller, which offers users fully programmable settings for automated control, including start/stop and dusk-to-dawn settings.

"I really like these units, they allow us to use one light tower where in some instances we would need two," said Metz. "The units have been reliable and the auto start has enhanced efficiency on site. The towers have not required any service or cleaning." Metz

said there are several other features to Generac's light tower that stand out to him. For one, Metz said the rear LED running lights provide additional visibility for drivers. He said the lights fixtures are also easy to adjust. The lights can be angled so they do not shine in the driver's eyes. These features help to keep the mine site as safe as possible.

Enright said the Nevada gold mine really appreciate the MLT6SMD's ECOSpeed engine. "The engine has a quieter operation, making is easier to have a conversation while the unit is running," he said. "The customer also likes that the unit does not require DEF and the fuel efficiency also means the tower only needs to be fueled every two or three days."

Metz said he is very pleased with how the units have performed. "We plan to replace all of our older units with Generac light towers," he said. He plans to replace the remaining aged fleet with MLT6SMD light towers.