International Journal of Enhanced Research in Science, Technology & Engineering
ISSN: 2319-7463, Vol. 15 Issue 3, March-2026

Depart Solar Power Dewatering in Mining

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ABSTRACT

Mining operations often face serious challenges due to the continuous accumulation of water in open-pit mines, underground tunnels, and excavation sites. This unwanted water may come from rainfall, groundwater seepage, or nearby water sources. If not removed efficiently, it can interrupt mining activities, damage equipment, reduce productivity, and create unsafe working conditions. Therefore, dewatering—the process of removing excess water—is an essential operation in the mining industry. Traditionally, dewatering pumps are powered by diesel generators or grid electricity. However, these conventional methods have several disadvantages such as high fuel costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, noise pollution, and dependency on fuel transportation, especially in remote mining areas. To overcome these issues, solar-powered dewatering systems have emerged as a sustainable and cost-effective alternative.

Solar-powered dewatering involves using solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity that operates water pumps. The system typically includes solar panels, a pump controller or inverter, water pumps, and sometimes battery storage for night-time or cloudy-day operation. During daylight hours, solar energy is converted into electrical energy, which drives the pump to remove water from mining pits or underground reservoirs. The use of solar energy in mining dewatering offers multiple benefits. It reduces operational costs by minimizing diesel consumption and electricity bills. It also supports environmental sustainability by lowering carbon emissions and promoting clean energy usage. Additionally, solar-powered systems require less maintenance compared to diesel-based systems and provide reliable performance in remote locations where grid power is unavailable. Despite its advantages, solar-powered dewatering also faces challenges such as dependence on sunlight availability, initial installation costs, and the need for proper system sizing based on

Keywords: Solarenergy, Dewatering system, Mining operations, Renewable energy, Solar photovoiltaic, Remote mining sites, greentechnology.

INTRODUCTION

Mining is one of the most important industrial activities for extracting valuable minerals, metals, coal, and other natural resources from the earth. Mining operations are carried out through open-pit mining or underground mining methods. During these processes, one major problem faced by mining industries is the continuous accumulation of water inside mine pits, tunnels, and working areas. This water may enter the mine due to rainfall, groundwater seepage, nearby rivers, or underground water sources.The presence of excess water in mining sites creates serious difficulties such as flooding, damage to heavy machinery, delays in excavation, and unsafe working conditions for miners.

Therefore, it becomes essential to remove unwanted water regularly to maintain smooth and safe mining operations. This process is known as dewatering. Traditionally, mining dewatering water discharge requirements. Hybrid systems combining. pumps are powered by diesel engines or grid electricity. However, these conventional power sources have several limitations. Diesel-powered pumping systems consume large amounts of fuel, produce harmful emissions, increase operational costs, and require continuous fuel transportation, especially in remote mining areas. Similarly, grid electricity may not always

LITERATURE SURVEY

The mining industry is one of the largest consumers of energy and water management resources, especially due to the

continuous requirement of dewatering operations. Dewatering is an essential process in both open-pit and underground mining, as water accumulation from rainfall, groundwater seepage, and underground reservoirs can interrupt excavation activities, damage machinery, and create unsafe working conditions. Traditionally, mine dewatering systems have been operated using diesel generators or grid-based electricity.

However, increasing fuel costs, environmental concerns, and the difficulty of supplying energy in remote mining regions have encouraged researchers and industries to explore renewable alternatives such as solar-powered pumping systems.A significant amount of research has been conducted on solar photovoltaic (PV) based water pumping technologies, although most studies have focused on agricultural irrigation and rural drinking water supply.

These studies provide a strong technical foundation for applying solar pumping systems in mining dewatering operations because the working principle remains the same. Researchers have explained that solar PV panels convert sunlight into electrical energy, which is then used to operate pumps through controllers or inverters. Various review papers have highlighted the development of solar pumping systems over the years, emphasizing improvements in PV efficiency, pump performance, and power electronic control methods. These advancements make solar-powered pumping a reliable option for off-grid applications, which is particularly important for mining sites located far from conventional electricity networks.Several experimental studies have examined the performance of solar-powered water pumping under varying solar irradiance conditions.

These studies report that the water discharge rate depends greatly on sunlight availability, panel temperature, and system sizing. Researchers have also investigated maximum power point tracking (MPPT) techniques and advanced inverter controls to enhance pumping efficiency.

Such control strategies are crucial for mining dewatering, where consistent water removal is required despite fluctuations in solar radiation throughout the day. Optimization studies have further suggested that proper matching of solar array capacity with pump requirements can significantly improve the overall system output and reduce operational costs.

Although academic literature specifically targeting solar-powered dewatering in mining is limited, some case studies and industrial reports confirm its practical feasibility. Certain mining operations have implemented solar-powered pumps to manage groundwater intrusion, tailings pond water, and surface water discharge. These real-world applications demonstrate that solar energy can successfully replace or supplement diesel-powered pumping systems, especially in remote locations. Industry reports also indicate a growing market for solar-powered dewatering pumps due to their low maintenance, reduced carbon emissions, and long-term cost benefits.

In recent years, research related to sustainable mining practices has highlighted that dewatering is a major contributor to a mine's energy consumption. Studies on energy transition in mining suggest that integrating renewable sources such as solar power into water management systems can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the sustainability of mining operations. However, researchers have also pointed out several challenges, including the high initial installation cost of solar PV systems, the dependence on sunlight, and the need for hybrid solutions involving battery storage or backup generators for continuous pumping.

METHODOLOGY

- Solar powered dewatering is used to remove excess water from mining areas such as open pits and underground mines.
- Water accumulation occurs due to rainfall, groundwater seepage, or nearby water sources.
- The system mainly uses solar photovoltaic (PV) panels as the power source.
- PV panels convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity.
- A pump controller or inverter is used to regulate voltage and control pump operation.
- MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking) technology may be included to extract maximum energy from solar panels.
- The dewatering pump can be submersible (for deep water) or centrifugal (for surface water).
- Pumps lift and transfer water through pipelines to a discharge area, storage tank, or treatment unit.
- The system is highly useful in remote mining sites where grid electricity is not available.
- It reduces dependence on diesel generators, saving fuel and transportation cost.
- Solar dewatering systems are environmentally friendly as they produce zero carbon emissions.
- Maintenance requirements are low compared to diesel-powered pumping systems.
- Battery storage or hybrid backup generators can be used for continuous pumping during cloudy weather or nighttime.
- The system improves mining safety by preventing flooding, slope failure, and equipment damage.
- Solar powered dewatering supports sustainable and energy-efficient mining operations.

HARDWARE REQUIRED

· Microcontroller AT Mega 328
· Regulator LM2596 DC-DC Buck Converter
· RS232-GSM800L
· Lcd 16*2
· Relay –Water Pump
· Water level sensor Sr04.

BLOCK DIAGRAM

ADVANTAGES

● Uses renewable solar energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. ● Reduces diesel consumption, saving fuel and transportation cost.
● Low operating cost compared to diesel generators and grid electricity. ● Eco-friendly system with zero greenhouse gas emissions.
● Suitable for remote mining locations where grid power is unavailable.
● Low maintenance requirement because there is no fuel engine involved.
● Provides silent operation with less noise pollution than diesel pumps.
● Improves mine safety by preventing flooding and waterlogging.
Solar
12v
Battery 12v
Dc To DC 5v
LCD 16*2
Display
RS232
Micro
GSM
● Helps in continuous mining operations without interruption due to water accumulation.
● Long-term cost-effective solution after initial installation.

LIMITATIONS

Ultrasonic sensor
Buzzer

Atmega 328p
800I
Relay
Water Pump

● The system depends heavily on sunlight availability, so pumping reduces during cloudy or rainy weather.
● Solar powered pumps cannot operate efficiently at night without battery storage or backup power.
● The initial installation cost of solar panels, controllers, and pumps is high.
● Requires a large open area for installing solar PV panels near the mining site.
● Pump output may fluctuate due to variation in solar irradiance throughout the day.
● Battery storage increases the cost and batteries require periodic replacement.
● Solar panels may be affected by dust, dirt, and harsh mining conditions, reducing efficiency.

CONCLUSIONS

● Solar powered dewatering in mining is a modern and sustainable approach for removing unwanted water from open-pit and underground mines. It uses solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for operating dewatering pumps, helping to maintain safe working conditions and uninterrupted mining operations. This system reduces dependence on diesel generators, lowers fuel and maintenance costs, and minimizes environmental pollution. Although challenges such as sunlight dependency and initial investment exist, solar powered dewatering provides an effective long-term solution for water management, especially in remote mining locations.

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