



Ronald K. Hite

Current Position

Chief Operating Officer & Partner

Profession

Mining Engineer

Years' Experience

33+

Education

West Virginia University,
Morgantown, West Virginia
B.S.E.M., College of Mineral
and Energy Resources, magna
cum laude, 1980

Summary of Experience

Mr. Hite is COO and Partner of Marshall Miller & Associates, Inc. (MM&A). He has over 30 years of underground and surface coal mining experience in the USA, in the People's Republic of China (PRC), and in Australia. Mr. Hite was UG Project Director for BHP Billiton's Metallurgical Coal Project HUB in Brisbane QLD. He has extensive experience in the coal industry in the PRC, where his focus was designing, constructing, commissioning and operating a 6-MMTPY and an 8-MMTPY underground longwall operations in Shanxi Province, PRC.

Significant Projects

- > **Australia:** Directly responsible for overall project management, supervision, and implementation of the requirements of the Canning Basin Coal Projects, and the establishment and maintenance of systems for project operations. This is projected to be a 2-MMTPA export operation through the Port of Derby, followed by a much larger underground operation with coal exported via a new transport corridor to a new port site in the region.
- > **China:** Chief Operating Officer of Asian American Coal, Inc. (AACI), responsible for the oversight and implementation of the joint venture's (JV) health and safety programs, operating plans and financial results. Direct communication to the AACI board concerning all aspects of the JV's businesses. Concurrently served as Vice Chairmen on both JV's Board of Directors. Leading member of the negotiating team that was chartered by the AACI board to consummate the \$580-million sale of AACI to Banpu Company LTD. Retained by Banpu as Chief Operating Officer and head of transition team.
- > **China:** Concurrently served as President of the Shanxi Gaohe Energy Company (SGEC), responsible for negotiating and finalizing the JV Contract and Articles of Association with Lu'an Mining Bureau for developing this 400-million USD, 6-MMTPY multiple longwall coal project in Shanxi Province, PRC. Worked closely with the Lu'an Bureaus senior managers, jointly selecting the JV's senior management team. Direct responsibility to the SGEC JV Board of Directors for implementation of all aspects of the mine construction schedule and equipment selection.
- > **China:** Developed first U.S./China Coal Mining JV in the PRC, responsibilities included designing, constructing and operations managing this \$230-million, 4-MMTPY western-style mining company and state-of-the-art process facility and 15-km rail spur. Developed and implemented a business plan utilizing Chinese and American staff to build a safety management system and modern remuneration system to support Shanxi Asian American-Daning Energy Co., Ltd.'s (SAADEC) vision to have a world class safety program and be among the leaders in the world in productivity. Responsible for the overall direction and administration of all company operations, programs and services. Directly accountable to the AACI Board of Directors and the SAADEC JV Board of Directors for all aspects of the company's performance. First foreigner to be issued a General Manager's licenses to operate a coal company in 2003.



Professional History

2017 – Current

Chief Operating Officer and Partner

Marshall Miller & Associates, Inc.

2012 – 2016

Director

Hite and Associates LTD

As Director, provided engineering design, operation reviews and financial analysis services to both surface and underground mining operations throughout the world.

Mar 2012 – Sept 2012

Project Director

BHP Billiton

As Project Director for BHPB Metallurgical Coal, Project HUB in Brisbane QLD, responsibilities included the overall project management, including engineering design, operational readiness of multiple underground thick seam longwall mining projects, and introducing thick seam top coal caving in the Bowen Basin, QLD Australia.

Apr 2010 – Feb 2012

Project Director

Rey Resources LTD

Mr. Hite was directly responsible for overall project management, supervision, and implementation of the requirements of the Canning Basin Coal Projects, and the establishment and maintenance of systems for project operations. This is projected to be a 2-MMTPA export operation through the Port of Derby, followed by a much larger underground operation with coal exported via a new transport corridor to a new port site in the region.

2006 – Apr 2010

Chief Operating Officer

Asian American Coal, Inc. (AACI)

Mr. Hite was responsible for the oversight and implementation of the joint venture's (JV) health and safety programs, operating plans and financial results. He had direct communication to the AACI Board concerning all aspects of the JV's businesses. He concurrently served as Vice Chairmen on both JV's Board of Directors. He was the leading member of the negotiating team that was chartered by AACI's Board to consummate the \$580-million sale of AACI to Banpu Company LTD, where he was retained by Banpu as Chief Operating Officer and head of transition team.

2004 – 2007

President

Shanxi Gaohe Energy Company (SGEC)

Mr. Hite concurrently served as President of SGEC and COO of AACI. He was responsible for negotiating and finalizing the JV Contract and Articles of Association with Lu'an Mining Bureau for developing this 400-million USD, 6-MMTPY multiple longwall coal project in Shanxi Province, PRC. He worked closely with the Lu'an Bureaus senior managers, jointly selecting the JV's senior management team. His direct responsibility was to the SGEC JV Board of Directors for implementation of all aspects of the mine construction schedule and equipment selection.



2001 – 2007

General Manager

Shanxi Asian American-Danang Energy Company (SAADEC)

Mr. Hite developed the first U.S./China Coal Mining JV in the PRC. His responsibilities included designing, constructing and operations managing this \$230-million, 4-MMTPY western-style mining company and state-of-the-art process facility and 15-km rail spur. He developed and implemented a business plan utilizing Chinese and American staff to build a safety management system and modern remuneration system to support SAADEC's vision to have a world class safety program and be among the leaders in the world in productivity. He was responsible for the overall direction and administration of all company operations, programs and services and directly accountable to the AACI Board of Directors and the SAADEC JV Board of Directors for all aspects of the company's performance. Mr. Hite was the first foreigner to be issued a General Manager's licenses to operate a coal company in 2003.

2002 – 2008

Chairman

Yangcheng Asian American-Rail Spur Company

Mr. Hite concurrently served as Chairman of the domestic JV company that was formed to construct and operate the rail spur that supports SAADEC. He was legally responsible for the construction and operation of the rail spur. He developed the management team, interface with the Railroad Bureau and was responsible for the company operation.

1994 – 2000

President

USA Exteriors Inc.

Mr. Hite opened a self-owned residential home remodeling business in Syracuse, New York. He expanded the business into South Florida in 1998 including mortgage refinancing where he was also the in-house Loan Officer for the lending institution. The business was sold in 2000 to pursue an opportunity in the PRC.

1989 – 1993

Operations Manager

Shell Mining Company's Wolfcreek Resources Group

Mr. Hite directed the development of the 4-MTPY operations plan and was responsible for the safety performance and operating results for two underground and one surface operation. He was responsible for managing a \$75- to \$100-million operating budget, and an \$8- to \$12-million capital budget and all aspects of the company's operations.

1988 – 1989

Manager, Technical Services

Shell Mining Company's Wolfcreek Resources Group

Mr. Hite directed the development of the organizational and operational premises for 1-, 5-, and 10-year plans for two underground and one surface operation. He directed engineering, legal, land acquisitions, and professional staff development, serving as liaison between company and head office.

1981 – 1988

UG Production Manager

Turriss Coal Company

Mr. Hite managed four underground production units in Elkhart, Illinois, where he developed budgets, cost management systems, and career development programs for staff and hourly

employees. He evaluated new technology for existing mining operation and presented operational information to head office and Board of Directors.

Training

- > China Expatriate Training, CEIBS Shanghai PRC
- > PRC "Safety Training National Safety Bureau"
- > PRC "NDRC training to obtain Legal Person Certificate"
- > China Expatriate Training Human Resources for Executives, CEIBS Shanghai PRC
- > Brookings Institute, "Federal Government Operations" Washington D.C.
- > Darden School, "Financial Management" University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA
- > Gary Rawls & Associates, "Networking" Houston Texas
- > Shell, "Management for Senior Managers"
- > Shell, "Developing Effective Workgroups Communication Skills"
- > Shell, "Industrial Relations Training" & "Leadership Skills"
- > Darden School, "Critical Success Factors" University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA
- > Lost Control Institute
- > DuPont Safety Training