Nothing has changed since my last update. I am still going through my initial analysis which at the moment is mainly re-familiarizing myself with the system and how it works (architecture and implementation). Then I will need to go over the documentation you put together for the meeting we had towards the end of March and decide what can and cannot be implemented and what it will take.

At the time I thought a preliminary estimate of the effort required to do these substantial changes at about 1 year. This would also bring the system up to date with new technologies (access database, OS, etc.), which will basically require a re-write but is necessary in order to avoid any danger of obsolescence due to ever changing Microsoft Operating Systems and environments. I see no reason to change this estimate at the moment until the preliminary analysis is completed.

Also I need to work on a new ‘Qualnet’ system for the installation of the analyzer at Shoemaker by the end of the year. In addition we will be implementing the same algorithm we developed for Robena in order to maximize the amount of raw coal shipped in barges. This will take up to approximately half my time, perhaps more, till then.