

The Sudbury Star

Mining conservation efforts are recognized

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Even a tiny hole in a compressed air system can cost a mining company thousands of dollars a year in unnecessary costs.

However, a new program aims to seal up those leaks, saving mining companies money and Ontario a drain on its electrical system.

"The fact is that the mining industries spend about \$500 million a year (on power), which represents 15 to 30 per cent of their costs," said Peter Love, Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer.

"This is the purpose of the pilot project - to test out what the potential savings are. The fact that we're doing it at three mines - I think it will be quite interesting to see what the full results are and we'll be analyzing them."

Love was in Greater Sudbury on Thursday to present certificates of recognition to CVRD Inco's South Mine and FNX Mining's McCreedy West Mine because they were involved with the Sustainable Leak Prevention Program

Cheryl Brownlee of the Ontario Mining Association, Dave Secord, senior maintenance co-ordinator of FNX Mining's McCreedy West Mine, and Dave Tomini, divisional energy co-ordinator of CVRD Inco, were awarded the Certificates of Recognition.

Tomini said no hard numbers have been recorded yet, but he expects the savings to be significant.

The Williams Mine near Marathon will receive its recognition at a later ceremony.

The Sustainable Leak Prevention Program was created by the Ontario Mining Association, the Ontario Power Authority and the Conservation Fund.

Located underground, air compressors can get small leaks, causing the compressors to overwork in order to compensate for the lack of air flow, which leads to wasted electricity and higher operating costs.

According to an article on the Ontario Power Authority website, a single tiny hole equal to 1/8-inch in diameter wastes air at a rate of 12 litres per second, meaning the leak can waste more than \$1,000 per year.

For an industry that uses compressed air systems, it's likely some plants will experience a lot of air leakage.

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Illustration:

• Dave Secord (left) senior maintenance co-ordinator of McCreedy West Mine, owned by FNX Mining, receives a certificate of recognition from Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer, **Peter Love**, for FNX's participation in the Sustainable Leak Prevention Program. The program helps save thousands of dollars in mining costs annually and improves energy efficiency.

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