

Norwest Team Receives Stefanko Best Paper Award

GOLDEN, CO – January 9, 2008 - Norwesters Steve Hennings and Scott Thomson, along with client Jim Sandford (Xstrata Coal NSW), have been selected to receive the prestigious Stefanko Best Paper Award for 2007 for their paper entitled “A PETROLEUM INDUSTRY APPROACH TO COAL MINE GAS DRAINAGE.” The award-winning paper describes an innovative approach to draining methane from coal mines ahead of the longwall; thereby increasing safety, mining efficiency, and the ability to capture greenhouse gases. The Norwest authors will receive their award during the Coal & Energy Division Luncheon on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at the SME Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“The inspiration of this award truly goes to Xstrata Coal for its vision in taking a creative approach to capturing methane,” stated co-author and Norwest Senior Engineer Steve Hennings. “As a fully-integrated energy, mining, and natural resource firm, Norwest was able to meld its expertise in petroleum, hydrology, and mining on behalf of a single project.”

As explained on the SME website, the Stefanko Best Paper Award, which was established in 1983, recognizes authors presenting papers in the Coal & Energy Division technical sessions at SME Annual Meetings for their contributions to the body of knowledge. The winning paper undergoes a rigorous selection process in which both the technical quality of the paper and the quality of presentation are considered.

Steve, Scott, and Jim join an illustrious list of prior recipients including:

- 1986 recipient Lee W. Saperstein (Chair of the ad hoc Task Force on Governance - Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)
- 1993 recipient Stanley C. Suboleski (Commissioner-Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission)
- 2003 recipient Christopher Mark (Team Leader of the Rock Mechanics Section in the Rock Safety Engineering Branch at the NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Laboratory).

About Norwest Corporation

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