

Fueling Savings

'Win-Win' Reactor Passes Key Southwest Test

In Texas, where everything is supposed to be bigger, a small change has shown a lot of promise.

Looking for ways to reduce fuel consumption in trying economic times, employees in the San Antonio District had been studying fuel additives and other ways to improve the performance of their heavy equipment.

"As we were doing this, our Heavy Equipment Superintendent, **Lewis Maxwell**, came across a new technology that had been used mostly in auto racing," notes San Antonio District Area Production Manager **Chance Allen**. "We arranged for a test run on one of our loaders and sure enough, we started recognizing some significant fuel savings."

The technology in question is the FX Reactor, an on-board fuel treatment system created by Emission & Power Solutions Inc. (EPS), a California-based company.

The reactor is essentially a hydraulic hose installed between the fuel filter and the injection pump. The hose contains a series of cyclones which pull water mole-



Lewis Maxwell (left) and Mechanic Elias Sanchez install a fuel reactor on a wheel loader at Beckmann Quarry in San Antonio.

cules from the fuel. Undiluted by this water, the higher quality fuel is able to burn more efficiently, thus improving fuel economy.

The district's test run, performed at Beckmann Quarry on a pair of wheel loaders, resulted in an approximately 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption in a month's time, Allen says. In one piece of equipment, the reactor saved about 25 gallons, or more than \$50 per day.

"The great thing is that this is such a win-win product," Allen says. "It's very simple to install, not that expensive, and doesn't have some of the negative side effects that we sometimes encounter with fuel additives."

"What sold me," adds Maxwell, "is that it doesn't require any maintenance. You put it on and you're done. It's good for the life of the machine."

Pleased with the results of its initial test run, the San Antonio District has installed 32 additional reactors in its wheel loaders and haul trucks. The reactors are also being used extensively in the South Texas and North Texas/Oklahoma districts, as well as at Ruby Quarry in Georgia, Allen says.

While fuel savings have been seen in all the machines in which they have been installed, Maxwell notes that the biggest reductions have been seen in the larger trucks.

Martin Marietta operations interested in purchasing or learning more about the FX Reactor are encouraged to contact Maxwell at the San Antonio District Heavy Equipment Shop at (210) 208-4163 or lewis.maxwell@martinmarietta.com. ▼