

 **GLOBELIFE**

Technology

NB Power unveils anti-theft tech

Canadian Press

July 10, 2007 at 5:14 PM EDT

FREDERICTON — New Brunswick Power has unveiled technology it hopes will deter thieves from swiping valuable copper.

The so-called DataDot technology involves spraying tiny identification dots on the copper.

While the dots are no bigger than a grain of sand, they contain enough information to identify the rightful owner.

Stealing copper has become a dangerous trend among thieves.

In May, Thomas Daigle of St. Stephen, N.B., was electrocuted while trying to steal copper wire from a substation along with his cousin.

Darryl Daigle was later sentenced to five years in prison for the break enter and theft, plus another 17 months for a string of crimes to support his drug habit.

RCMP Sgt. Derek Strong said the technology will help track down thieves who are putting the safety of the public at risk by illegally entering substations.

"It's not thousands of people that are stealing copper in New Brunswick, it's a select few in all areas," Strong said Tuesday.

"It only takes one or two convictions to put a real stop to that type of activity."

Nova Scotia Power announced last month that it would begin using DataDot at substations and other electrical facilities in the province.