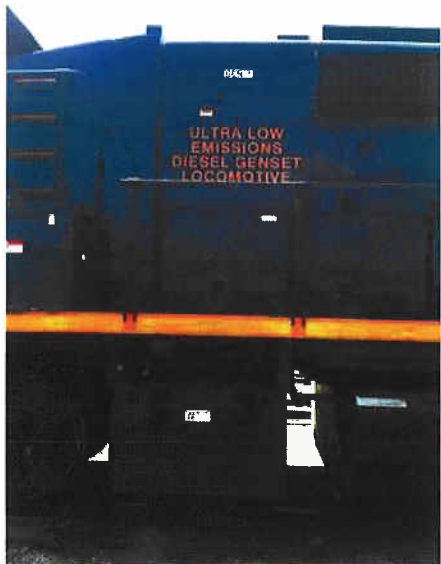
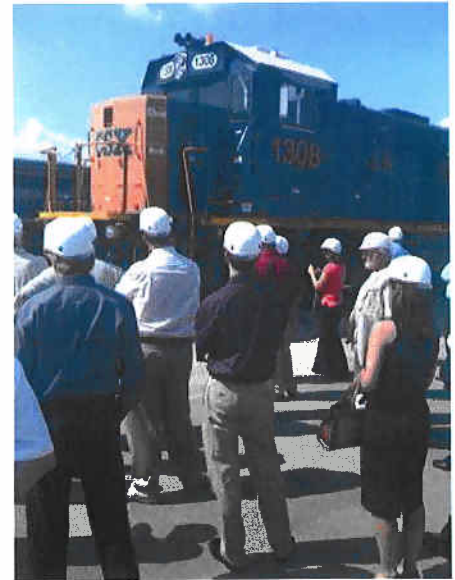


The Future of Rail Tour

On August 5th, CNT, along with Respiratory Health Agency, Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, and National Railway Equipment Co. (NREC) co-sponsored *The Future of Rail* tour which illustrated Illinois' capacity to meet our nation's rail, environmental and manufacturing needs. The tour spotlighted NREC's exciting N-ViroMotive GenSet Locomotive an Ultra Low Emitting Locomotive, whose state-of-the-art technology allows for reductions of 80-95% in particulate emissions and noise, 35-70% in fuel consumption, and 50-65% in carbon dioxide emissions compared to conventional locomotives. Regional, state and federal policy makers and agency managers who attended the tour viewed steps in the manufacture of the N-ViroMotive at NREC's Dixmoor, IL plant and saw these locomotives in action at the CSX's Barr Rail Yard. The tour also visited the Funk-Linko Company- an 85 year-old, family owned and operated WBE/MBE steel manufacturing company located in Chicago Heights, IL- that manufactures the fifty thousand pound sub frames for the N-ViroMotive.



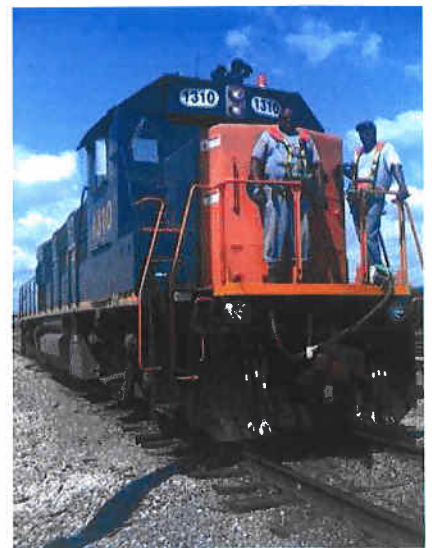
The first stop on the tour was NREC's Dixmoor, IL manufacturing and assembly facility. National Railway Equipment Co. is the world's largest independent producer of locomotives. NREC builds and remanufacture's new and existing locomotives and component assemblies at five Illinois sites, located in Dixmoor, Mt. Vernon, Silvis, Yorkville and Gilman, Illinois, with additional facilities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mount Pleasant, Tennessee; Paducah, Kentucky; Belle Chase and Houma, Louisiana; Waycross, Georgia; Capreol, Ontario; and Calgary, Alberta. Materials for NREC products are 95% domestically sourced, with most of the manufacturing and assembly taking place in Illinois. Currently there are 300+ N-ViroMotives in operation and demand for the new engines is high. In July alone, NREC received 14 new orders, sending its patented N-ViroMotive engines to all corners of the U.S. and bringing more than \$21.4 million to Illinois - a third of which is federal stimulus money.

The N-ViroMotive achieves its energy efficiency and emission reductions through the use of a new engine technology and advanced micro processor controls. This ultra-low emissions locomotive employs three relatively small, computer-linked engines rather than a single “prime mover” engine that conventional locomotive designs have used for the past sixty years. NREC’s patented power-on-demand system allows individual GenSets to only be used as needed. Idling engines are monitored and automatically shut down after a preset time. Other technologies incorporated into this locomotive include Diesel Particulate Filters and an electronically controlled tractive effort system which limits wheel slip, allowing it to pull heavier loads without the need for a second locomotive, further reducing pollution.



The second stop on the tour was CSX’s Barr Rail Yard in Riverdale, IL, where tour

participants viewed completed N-ViroMotives up close and in action. While in the rail yard the tour bus’s engine had to be shut off so the train’s engines could be heard as an N-ViroMotive was driven past the tour group. CSX employees also demonstrated the locomotives’ remote control functions and their in-cab, push-button start up process. This invention saves engineers from going through the time consuming idle process which requires several steps outside of the vehicle in conventional locomotives. While rail yard application was the original use of the N-ViroMotive, more powerful N-ViroMotives are now in use for mid- to long-haul freight runs. In early 2010, NREC will begin to produce passenger models which exceed the 120 mph threshold, set by the Obama Administration for the nation’s High Speed Rail Network.



The final stop on the Future of Rail tour was a visit to one of NREC’s chief suppliers Funk-Linko. Funk-Linko manufactures the sub frames of the N-ViroMotive along with several other frame components. In addition to their work for NREC, this South Suburban company also produces towers for wind turbines, sign and lighting poles, and traffic safety equipment. Not only does Funk-Linko produce materials for environmental friendly products, but it is an environmentally friendly company itself, as it recycles 100% of its waste steel at a Chicago Heights company located across the street. The Future of Rail Tour illustrated Illinois and south suburban Chicago’s ability to help lead America’s Green Economy through innovative technology like the National Railway Equipment Co.’s N-ViroMotive Ultra Low Emitting Locomotives.

Photos by: James Street Associates