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Late Breaking Rail Industry News

June 10, 2008

NREC GenSet passes another test

A National Railway Equipment Company twin-engine, 1,500-hp four-axle N-ViroMotive GenSet locomotive has just passed an operational test on California short line Modesto & Empire Traction Co. with flying colors.

"Our goal is to improve our already efficient railroad," said Ken Beard III, the railroad's vice president. "Fuel conservation and low emissions are a priority for us. We were more than pleased with the locomotive's excellent performance, fuel savings, tractive effort, and quiet running. It exceeded our expectations. We found that it pulled the equivalent of two to three of our existing 70-ton 600-hp units."

In business since 1911, Modesto & Empire Traction Co. operates a 2,000-acre industrial park known as the Beard Industrial District in Modesto, Calif. The railroad has a five-mile-long main line and operates and maintains an additional 28 miles of track within the Beard Industrial District serving numerous customers. M&ET serves customers whose products include wine, canned goods, paper products, corn syrup, cooking oil, feed & grain, lumber, and packaging materials. M&ET connects with BNSF and Union Pacific and also operates a 70-acre rail/truck transload facility encompassing 6,000 feet of unloading/loading tracks.