



Pacific Harbor Line Moves Toward Zero-Emission Operations with More Green Locomotives; Receives 12th ASLRRA Safety Award

ARH, News Links, PHL / October 29, 2024

Railroad's sustainability & safety leadership continues

WILMINGTON, CA – ([James Street Media Services](#))—Anacostia Rail Holdings (ARH) is pleased to announce that its Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) has made its most significant step yet toward zero-emission (ZE) operations. The railroad has received partial funding—together with the California Air Resources Board (CARB)—for five ZE locomotives. The funding for the acquisition will be provided through a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program grant.

The CRISI grant award follows PHL's successful first year operations with its zero-exhaust emission EMD® Joule battery-electric locomotive from Progress Rail, a Caterpillar company.

"We are gratified that PHL was chosen to receive funding as part of the CRISI grant award," says Otis L. Cliatt II, PHL President. "This crucial support, combined with our investment, will enable us to purchase five zero-emission battery electric locomotives. It is a transformative step that

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PHH is contributing \$6.17 million toward the \$34.2 million cost to acquire five ZE locomotives and two charging stations that are included in CARB's application, for a total of eight ZE locomotives. The remaining three units would be used in Sacramento, Imperial, and San Bernardino, California by other operators.

Peter Gilbertson, ARH president, says, "We are grateful for the grant from the Federal Railroad Administration and appreciate the key role of the California Air Resources Board. We also value the assistance of many key stakeholders who helped secure the CRISI grant." Among the Federal & State leaders and organizations that supported the grant application were:

U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla

U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán

California State Senator Lena Gonzalez

California State Assembly Member Laura Friedman

California State Assembly Member Mike Gipson

Coalition for Clean Air

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This PHL project is expected to reduce NOx emissions by over 17 tons per year (tpy), fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 0.249 tpy, and eliminate 459 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year. The ZE locomotives will be operating inside of neighboring transportation disadvantaged communities to both help California meet its air quality goals and to advance environmental justice and equity by reducing the health impacts on communities already exposed to higher pollution.

The new PHL locomotives will be manufactured in the United States by Progress Rail.

The program is also expected to accelerate adoption of ZE technology in the railroad industry, already the most fuel-efficient way to move freight overland.

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The newest class of Southern California locomotive engineers stands with FRA members in front of PHL's zero emissions train.

From left: Mario Cordero, CEO, Port of Long Beach; Peter Gilbertson, President & CEO, Anacostia Rail Holdings; Amit Bose, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration; and Otis L. Cliatt II, President, Pacific Harbor Line stand next to the May, 2023 class of graduating engineers at PHL, in front of the first zero-exhaust emission EMD® Joule battery-electric locomotive from Progress Rail, a Caterpillar company.

Safety Awards

Separately, PHL received the prestigious President's Award for Safety from the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)—along with a Jake Safety Award—at its Dallas regional conference held October 28-30, 2024. This is the third year in a row that PHL has earned the President's Award. In addition, during the past 11 years PHL has also earned

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injury frequency rate per Federal Railroad Administration regulations as measured within industry per-hour categories. PHL had the best rate among Pacific Region railroads with 250,000–500,000 annual hours worked.

"It was an honor to accept this award on behalf of everyone at PHL," VanZee said. "The fact that we are so often a recipient of the industry's highest safety awards is a direct result of our basic focus on safety: 'One move at a time, one shift at a time, one day at a time.'"

Consistently safe operations are critical where PHL operates—in America's largest container port. PHL switches some 40,000 freight rail cars annually and dispatches more than 30 intermodal trains a day from nine on-dock intermodal terminals.

Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) received the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) President's Award in Dallas on October 29. At the presentation were (from left) ASLRRA Chairman Matt Walsh; PHL executives Otis L. Cliatt II, President and Rick VanZee, Superintendent; and ASLRRA President Chuck Baker. (ASLRRA photo)

About Pacific Harbor Line Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) provides neutral transportation, maintenance, and dispatching services to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles which together form the largest container port in the United States. PHL dispatches all BNSF Railway and Union Pacific trains within the ports. PHL is a subsidiary of Anacostia Rail Holdings, which operates six local and regional freight railroads in seven states.

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FoRNFVaaDw3YwoPV0rh7YD1HcytCCyzP/view>

1:43 – 1:51 Rising pan of PHL ZE locomotive

0:01 – 0:22 Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose at ZE locomotive ceremony

1:27 – 1:32 PHL President Otis Cliatt II commenting: 1 train keeps 750 trucks off roads

*These clips are from a 2023 ceremony during which the first PHL ZE locomotive was introduced. Five additional ZE locomotives will be acquired as part of a grant announced in this release.

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