

DOE News Release

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DOE Completes Testing on Three Hydrogen Fueled Vehicles

The U.S. Department of Energy, through its Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, has finished testing three hydrogen-fueled vehicles with internal combustion engines. The primary testing objective was to evaluate the safety and reliability of operating vehicles on hydrogen and blended hydrogen fuels; secondary objectives included quantifying vehicle emissions, cost and performance.

The three vehicles were operated safely for 26,000 miles on 100 percent hydrogen gas and blends of hydrogen gas and compressed natural gas (CNG).

The vehicles were fueled at the Arizona Public Service (APS) Alternative Fuel Pilot Plant in Phoenix, Arizona. The hydrogen is generated and compressed onsite by operating a Proton Exchange Membrane fuel cell in reverse, and the CNG is compressed on site from low-pressure natural gas street service. The hydrogen/CNG facility was constructed and is operated by APS and Electric Transportation Applications, in cooperation with the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity.

The hydrogen and hydrogen/CNG test vehicles, powered by internal combustion engines, included a Ford F-150 pickup running on up to 50 percent hydrogen, a second F-150 pickup running on up to 30 percent hydrogen, and a Mercedes van running on 100 percent hydrogen. The emissions were extremely low compared to a gasoline-fueled F-150 and to California emissions standards. The testing also suggested that it might be possible to extend oil change intervals well beyond the conventional 3,000 miles with the use of hydrogen/CNG fuel.

For additional information on the above vehicle testing visit the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity's Web pages at <http://ev.inel.gov/fop/hydro.html>

DOE, through its Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, conducts Baseline Performance, Accelerated Reliability and Fleet testing on advanced technology vehicles. (The Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity is a component of DOE's FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program).

These elements of the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity are managed for the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho. For more information on this Activity, and its testing methods, visit the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity Web page <http://ev.inel.gov/fop> or contact Jim Francfort at francfje@inel.gov (208) 526-6787.

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