

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-48
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: U.S. Department of Energy (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)

Project Title: Developing Innovative Low Emission Natural Gas Engine and Vehicle Technology for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
500 Jackson St	Columbus, OH 47201	
1700 S Mount Prospect Rd	Des Plaines, IA 60018	
445 Maple Ave	Torrance, CA 90503	Los Angeles
1751 Torrance Blvd Unit K	Torrance, CA 90501	Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this agreement is to research and develop technology that advances the beneficial use of natural gas as a low emission alternative fuel for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. The technologies include a high efficiency natural gas engine architecture, a smart compressed natural gas fueling system with low cost pre-cooling, a transient plasma ignition system, and a natural gas plug-in hybrid electric truck.

Research and development for these technologies will take place in existing laboratory settings and primarily include data collection to support technology advancement. Existing safety standards related to natural gas vehicle, engine, fueling station, and on-board storage technology will be followed to mitigate risks. This agreement is intended to lead to ratepayer benefits including lower total cost of ownership of natural gas vehicles, air quality improvements by enabling wider adoption, and greenhouse gas emission reductions by improving fuel efficiency and enabling renewable natural gas usage in the transportation sector.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Department of Energy (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306, because it focuses primarily on information collection efforts related to the research, design, and development of natural gas vehicle technologies. The project involves engine development, related infrastructure technology development, subsystem development, and vehicle integration. Data collection on performance and emissions parameters will be done within existing laboratory environments. All four project locations are existing permitted facilities.


The project includes on-road vehicle demonstration activities for two natural gas plug-in hybrid electric trucks. These trucks will be similar to existing prototypes that have been demonstrated on the road. Existing safety standards will be used to mitigate risks associated with building, testing, and demonstrating these trucks. Project activities will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Peter Chen **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1312

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  **Date:** 8/2/19 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE