

## Virginia Port Authority

600 World Trade Center  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(757) 683-8000  
[www.vaports.com](http://www.vaports.com)

### News Release

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Contact: Joe Harris, Media Relations Manager

Tel: (757) 683-2137 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 617-0006

Fax: (757) 683-2897

[jharris@vaports.com](mailto:jharris@vaports.com)

Linda Ford, Director of Port Promotion

Tel: (757) 683-2140 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 615-7704

[lford@vaports.com](mailto:lford@vaports.com)

## VPA Buys Trio of Emissions-Efficient, Hybrid Yard Locomotives; EPA Grant Helps Offset Cost

**NORFOLK, VA** – In its ongoing commitment to environmental excellence and improving overall efficiency, the Virginia Port Authority [VPA] today announced the purchase of three low-emissions, hybrid yard locomotives for the on-dock rail operation at Norfolk International Terminals.

“There is going to be a significant savings in fuel costs and an even greater reduction in the amount of emissions,” said Heather L.W. Mantz, the VPA’s director of environmental affairs. “These are the machines of the future; they give us improved capability and efficiency on all fronts when compared with the equipment being used now.”

The new units will save an estimated \$143,000 in annual fuel expenditures for the VPA’s private operating company, Virginia International Terminals, Inc. [VIT]. Equally important, Mantz said, are the emissions reductions.

“In Hampton Roads, one the primary environmental concerns is air quality and these machines offer between 80 and 90 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide [NOx] and particulate matter emissions – both direct contributors to reduced air quality,” Mantz said.

The trio of new locomotives will graduate into daily service over the next six-to-nine months, with the first unit scheduled to arrive by the first week of August; the remaining two units are under construction and are scheduled for delivery in spring 2009. The total purchase price is \$3.6 million. Mantz said these units replace three 1970s-vintage yard locomotives that are currently being leased by VIT.

Typically, a road or yard switcher is the workhorse in the train-building process: they push heavy loads short distances at low speeds; make frequent stops; operate in forward and reverse and sit idle for long periods as they wait for railcars to be sorted.

The VPA in July was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency that was earmarked for the purchase; the VPA will pay \$2 million and VIT will pay the \$850,000 balance. For the first three years the units will be leased from the manufacturer, Railpower Hybrid Technologies Corp. When the lease has expired the VPA will purchase the units.

“Over time, these units will pay for themselves in fuel savings, efficiency, maintenance and overall operating cost,” Mantz said. “These units are far more efficient and have more capacity than what we’re using.”

The purchase package includes two *RP Series* road switchers and one *Green Goat* hybrid yard switcher. The road switchers employ three high-efficiency diesel engines and battery power that can be used in multiple configurations. The units save an estimated 30 percent to 40 percent on fuel. The yard switcher is a battery-dominant hybrid that uses diesel engines to maintain optimal battery power; fuel savings is estimated at 40 percent to 60 percent.

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**The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the state Secretary of Transportation. The VPA owns and operates four general cargo facilities on behalf of the state: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The terminals are operated by Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT) the non-stock, non-profit operating company. The VPA, through terminal earnings generated by VIT, is operationally self-sufficient. The VPA and correlating maritime industry is responsible for 343,000 jobs, \$41 billion in total revenues throughout the Commonwealth.**