

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Announces New Switching Practices**

Durango, CO –The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is now using diesel engines for its late afternoon switching in the yard. This new practice allows for the steam locomotives to be moved into the roundhouse and under the scrubber system more quickly, vastly reducing particulate concentrations and smoke over South Durango.

The D&SNGRR installed a Venturi Wet Scrubber system more than two years ago, which, according to Wano Urbonas, Environmental Health Director for San Juan Basin Health Department, was a major accomplishment.

“This next innovative step will further reduce particulate concentrations emitted by locomotives. It is a non-regulatory, goodwill gesture that should be applauded and built-upon. It demonstrates both a concern for community welfare, as well as an ability to implement cost-effective air-pollution prevention strategies,” said Urbonas.

The use of the diesel engines for switching began with the summer season in May. Evan Buchanan, Director of Train Operations with the D&SNGRR, has already received positive feedback from residents in South Durango

“We will attempt to quantify actual particulate reductions and conduct opacity readings, while maintaining open lines of communication with the D&SNGRR and the community at-large,” Urbonas said.

The D&SNGRR, in continuous service since 1881, operates authentic coal-fired, steam-powered locomotives through the remote wilderness and high-mountain landscape of the San Juan National Forest in Southwest Colorado.

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