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Subject: Fueling Pressures at Hydrogen Fueling Stations

Eight stations that are being developed and deployed by Air Products under the California Energy Commission Solicitation PON-09-608 include the provision for both H35 (350 bar) and H70 (700 bar) dispensing capability as required by the PON. Air Products has been made aware that Honda (which is the only automaker that currently utilizes a maximum 350 bar pressure in their fuel cell vehicle) has sent a letter to the Commission indicating that existing and planned stations, including stations contemplated under PON-09-608, provide adequate coverage for their current demonstration generation of vehicle. However, future generations of the Honda vehicles will be fueling at H70 and therefore H35 dispensing will not be needed.

Air Products is very concerned that 1) elements of the design of the eight stations will be underutilized without the demand from H35 vehicles that were anticipated from Honda; 2) will result in capital deployed that will have no opportunity of being recovered; and 3) will materially change the conditions and economics upon which the stations were bid. Station throughput, capital utilization, and lower on-board storage pressure are all keys to lowering the cost of hydrogen at light-duty fueling stations and the corresponding profitability for the station owner. Air Products has signed contracts in good faith and has spent a significant effort toward the originally intended goal. Air Products would like to meet with the Commission to discuss the impact of the elimination of H35 fueling demand at stations.

Thank you –

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