

Welcome to the Alternative Fuel Transportation Program

Dear Fleet Point of Contact:

I want to welcome you as a point of contact (POC) for a new fleet or a new POC for an existing fleet under the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Alternative Fuel Transportation Program (the Program). I am writing to make you aware of the important role that POCs play for the Program and the resources that are available to you as you go about ensuring your fleet's compliance with the Program's requirements.

DOE is committed to helping covered state government and alternative fuel provider fleets comply with the Program's requirements. The enclosed packet of materials contains helpful information about the Program and the various compliance assistance resources that are available. Information and support can also be obtained through the Program's Regulatory Information Line (202-586-9171), or by contacting the Regulatory Information Line by email at regulatory.info@nrel.gov.

As your fleet's POC, you are the individual responsible for submitting its annual reports, as well as the person with whom DOE will communicate about the Program when necessary. Instructions on submitting an annual report through the Program's website can be found in the enclosed packet (see "User Guide: EPart State and Alternative Fuel Provider Fleet Compliance Tool"). Annual reports are due on the December 31 after the close of each model year.¹

DOE established the Program in 1996 pursuant to Congress' directives in sections 501 and 507(o) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPart 1992; Pub. L. No. 102-486).² As DOE explained in its final rule implementing these provisions, EPart 1992 aims to reduce our nation's dependence on petroleum by increasing the presence of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and thereby promoting the use of alternative fuels.³

Under the Program, covered state government and alternative fuel provider fleets must: (i) comply with annual AFV-acquisition requirements based on the number of non-excluded, light-duty vehicles acquired during a model year;⁴ or (ii) obtain an Alternative Compliance waiver and implement petroleum fuel use

¹ Under the Program, a model year runs from September 1 through the following August 31. See 10 C.F.R. § 490.2. Thus, for example, a fleet's annual report for model year 2016, which runs from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016, will be due on December 31, 2016.

² See 42 U.S.C. §§ 13251 (alternative fuel provider fleets) and 13257(o) (State government fleets).

³ See 61 Fed. Reg. 10622 (Mar. 14, 1996).

⁴ 10 C.F.R. Part 490, Subpart C.

reduction measures.⁵ Regardless of the compliance method used, all covered fleets must submit an annual report to DOE.⁶

Again, DOE is committed to helping covered fleets better understand the Program regulations, and to providing compliance assistance. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark S. Smith
Program Manager, Technology Integration
202-586-9171

Enclosures

⁵ *Id.* Part 490, Subpart I.

⁶ *Id.* §§ 490.205 (State government fleets under Standard Compliance), 490.308 (alternative fuel provider fleets under Standard Compliance), and 490.807 (all fleets under Alternative Compliance).