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Speedway, a subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation, to advance Utah's air quality by selling cleaner gasoline at all 26 new locations

Governor Herbert and executives from Speedway and Marathon Petroleum Corporation celebrate with community members and others at ribbon cutting event

SALT LAKE CITY (Nov. 25, 2019) – Governor Gary R. Herbert today joined executives from Marathon Petroleum Corp. and its subsidiary, Speedway LLC, to open a new Speedway convenience store and gas station that will sell lower-sulfur “Tier 3” gasoline, marking continued progress in improving Utah’s air quality through the production of cleaner gasoline.

“This monumental day marks a clear win for Utah’s air quality,” said Gov. Herbert. “Across years of dialogue and dedication, I’m proud that our shared vision, with the support of the legislature and my Office of Energy Development, has brought together a pathway for Marathon Petroleum and Speedway to deliver cleaner Tier 3 fuels to Utah drivers.”

Karma Thomson, Marathon Petroleum Vice President of Corporate Affairs, said the company’s commitment to selling the lower-sulfur gasoline through Speedway will help reduce vehicle emissions.

“Investing in the infrastructure necessary to produce cleaner, lower-sulfur gasoline at our Salt Lake refinery is simply the right thing to do for our stakeholders,” she said.

To aid refineries in the significant investments required for Tier 3 infrastructure and upgrades, the Governor’s Office of Energy Development has been actively working to accelerate outcomes for Tier 3 fuels by providing a non-refundable, post-performance tax incentive.



“We are honored to deliver on the Governor’s vision for improved air quality by partnering with Marathon Petroleum and Speedway to realize win-win outcomes for our economy, environment and citizens through critical investments in Tier 3 fuels,” said Laura Nelson, the Governor’s energy advisor and executive director of the Governor’s Office of Energy Development. “As a result of these partnerships, all the gasoline Marathon Petroleum makes for sale in Utah will be Tier 3 over an annual average.”

Speedway has opened 26 stores in Utah and will sell gasoline that is produced at Marathon’s Salt Lake City Refinery, the only refinery in Utah that has invested in the equipment necessary to manufacture the lower-sulfur Tier 3 gasoline. Marathon is the nation’s largest independent refining company, and Speedway is one of the largest convenience store owners and operators, with thousands of stores across the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) latest gasoline standard, Tier 3, reduces the sulfur content of gasoline from 30ppm to 10ppm, enabling a car’s catalytic converter to run more efficiently and reducing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions on all vehicles. On model year 2017 vehicles and newer, the emissions reduction from burning Tier 3 gasoline is even greater, up to 80%.

“Speedway’s vision is to be our customers’ first choice for value and convenience, and that wouldn’t be possible without a core dedication to serving people,” said Speedway President Tim Griffith. “We’re proud to serve Utahns not just with friendly, prompt service, but also with the fuels that fit the unique needs of this beautiful region.”

Emissions coming from the tailpipes of vehicles account for roughly half of the air pollution along the Wasatch Front. EPA has specifically pointed out that no state would benefit more from implementing the Tier 3 gasoline standard than Utah, with several counties exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for both small particulate matter and ozone pollution.

“In Utah, we believe some of the most powerful tools for safeguarding and improving our environment include carefully considering the concerns of all Utahns and actively promoting pollution prevention,” said Scott Baird, executive director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. “We’re grateful to have Marathon Petroleum and Speedway as partners in this effort.”

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About Governor’s Office of Energy Development (OED)

Web: energy.utah.gov

Governor Gary R. Herbert recognizes energy as one of the four cornerstones of Utah’s strength, along with education, job creation, and self-determination. In recognition of this priority, the Governor’s Office of Energy Development (OED) was created in 2011 to advance the responsible development of Utah’s energy and minerals sector to provide significant and lasting value to the state through the provision of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.