

Questar Opens CNG Fueling Station Along Interstate 5 in Southern Valley

Frito-Lay has made a significant commitment to compressed natural gas (CNG) in the San Joaquin Valley with the opening of a new CNG fueling station built by Questar Fueling Company in Buttonwillow, located along Interstate 5 in southwest Kern County. A division of PepsiCo, Frito-Lay has one of the largest privately owned delivery fleets in the nation.

Although Frito-Lay is the primary client, the CNG station is open to the public and offers fast-fill CNG fueling, said Carl Galbraith, Questar's General Manager, Business Development. Frito-Lay's Kern plant, located just a few miles from the new station, is the company's third largest plant.

"We will continue to add tractors to expand our CNG footprint," said Mike O'Connell, Director of Fleet Capability for Frito-Lay. O'Connell said Frito-Lay's fleet is approaching 500 CNG vehicles nationwide. A member of the SJV-based nonprofit Project Clean Air since 1991, Frito-Lay joined the U.S. Department of Energy's National Clean Fleets Partnership in 2011 and has become a leader nationwide in its commitment to both CNG and electric vehicle technology.

O'Connell said that Frito-Lay has established "anchor tenant" agreements with CNG fueling facilities near 12 of its plants. While Frito-Lay has committed to purchasing a large quantity of fuel, the station is able to serve other businesses and the public seeking to fuel with clean-burning natural gas. In addition to fuel cost savings over diesel, CNG reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants such as ozone and particulate matter, which are a particular concern in the Valley.

Galbraith said that Questar is talking to other companies about fueling their medium- and heavy-duty fleets at the station, and they already have a few smaller fleets as regular customers. Questar uses a card system that enables a range of payment options.

A grand opening for the station is being planned, added Galbraith. This is Questar's first station in California, and Galbraith said they are looking at possible future locations in Fontana and Modesto as well. The Utah-based company also has CNG fueling facilities in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Texas and Utah.

Lay's and Ruffles potato chips, Fritos, Doritos, Tostitos Scoops, Rold Gold Pretzels, and Baked Lay's and Ruffles potato chips are manufactured at the Kern facility. The majority of its products produced are sold in Central and Southern California, according to a manager at the plant, but products also may be shipped to other areas of the country.



Questar Fueling Company recently opened a compressed natural gas fueling station in the southern San Joaquin Valley along Interstate 5. The station, which is open for public access, will enable Frito-Lay's nearby Kern plant to expand its CNG fleet, adding to the company's nearly 500 CNG vehicles and furthering its goal of becoming the most fuel-efficient fleet in the country. Clean-burning natural gas also emits less air pollutants, helping the Valley's air.