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They're Here

First of new AC locomotives rolls out of Juniata

Conrail's first batch of AC locomotives, 28 in all, are beginning to roll out of the Juniata Locomotive Shops and into service around the Conrail system. The first of the units, Number 4100, was dedicated December 6 at ceremonies at Juniata.

The units — officially known as the SD80MAC — were built by General Motors' Electro-Motive Division at its LaGrange, Ill., plant and are getting prep work and a new Conrail blue and white paint job at Juniata. They represent the most dramatic advance in railroad power technology since the change from steam to diesel power nearly a half-century ago.

Early units are being funneled into a training role to familiarize train and engine employees around the system with the locomotive's operations. Eventually the 28 units will move into revenue service for the service groups — six in Intermodal, 14 in CORE, and eight in Unit Train.

The most unique feature of the SD80MAC is the significant



increase in wheel-to-rail adhesion made possible by the alternating current technology, which gives the locomotives the ability to provide greater tractive effort with fewer horsepower. As a result, two AC units are expected to be able to perform an amount of work equal to four existing locomotives. The locomotive also is equipped with radial trucks, which can conform to curves in the track and help increase wheel adhesion.

The first of Conrail's new AC locomotives, #4100 (top) debuts at the Juniata Locomotive Shop. The locomotive (center) features a new paint scheme to set the AC units apart from Conrail's existing fleet of DC diesel-electric locomotives. Below, the rollout ceremony at the shop included a number of officials from Conrail and General Motors' Electro-Motive Division, which is building the 28 AC units Conrail has ordered. Among them were (speaking) Dr. John Samuels, Conrail's Vice President-Mechanical and Chuck Medovich (far right) General Manager-Manufacturing at the shops. Photos by Art Wilkinson

