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R. J. Corman to break in QJ on Saturday

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. - R.J. Corman Railroad's Kentucky lines will break in "Old Smokey," its Chinese QJ steam locomotive, on Saturday with a six-car freight, the railroad has announced. The steamer will run six brand-new gondolas loaded with sand from Louisville to Lexington, Ky.

Work has been under way on the QJ since it arrived at Corman's Lexington shop in January. The 1986-built steamer was stripped of its paint, and Corman forces installed a fabricated red steel skirt that runs the length of the engine's boiler.

The American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association recognized Corman for its sand moves at its recent conference in San Antonio, Texas. Corman was one of three railroads to win a marketing award at the conference for its execution of the move, which originates at Nugent Sand Co.

A limited number of media representatives will be on board a caboose riding behind the sand cars. Corman invites the public to observe from a safe distance.