

## Iowa Interstate “Americanizes” Chinese steam locomotive

July 1, 2011

NEWTON, Iowa – The Iowa Interstate Railroad has changed the appearance of one of its two QJ-class Chinese’s 2-10-2s to make it appear more “American.” Under the supervision of steam locomotive contractor Robert Franzen, workers transformed QJ No. 6988 at the steam shop in Newton.

The red coloring that the engine wore in China has been removed and black paint applied. The engine also received new lettering, a new American-style headlight with the engine number, and a bell near the top of the boiler above the headlight.

Iowa Interstate made the changes in advance of Train Festival 2011 in Rock Island, Ill. No 6988 will pull an excursion for the festival on July 23 from Rock Island to Iowa City, Iowa, over its tracks.

©TRAINS 2011 Reprinted with permission.



*Photo by Robert Franzen*