

**For Immediate Release  
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**“Big Daddy,” locomotive named for longtime Railroad Executive. Dwain G. Luce, makes its home at Mississippi Export Railroad**

Big Daddy, Engine #68, is being welcomed to the Mississippi Export Railroad (MSE) fleet this week with fanfare. First built in 1980, the locomotive is an EMD-GP50, and will be the strongest locomotive owned by MSE, with 16 cylinder, 3500 horsepower, 4 x GM-D87 motors. Big Daddy weighs in at 275,000 lbs. Although it will never get to flex all its mighty muscle, Big Daddy can reach a top speed of 65MPH.

The new locomotive has been named for Dwain G. Luce, known by many of his friends and business associates as “Big Daddy”. Mr. Luce, a long-time President and Chairman of the Board of MSE, served from 1958 – 1985.

“Daddy would have been proud to have this beautiful engine named in his honor,” said Greg Luce, current President of MSE and son of Dwain G. Luce. “This is a deserving tribute to a man that served many years to build this railroad into what it is today.” Joey Smith, the MSE’s Locomotive Foreman/Master Mechanic that will maintain Big Daddy as well as the five other locomotives at MSE, agrees that Big Daddy is the right name for this engine. “This engine will strengthen our fleet and help provide the service excellence that we strive to maintain for our customers,” said Joey.

The MSE was incorporated in Mississippi on November 10, 1922 to purchase the railroad from Pascagoula to Luce Farms in Evanston, MS. MSE later purchased the southern end of the bankrupt Alabama & Mississippi Railroad. MSE rebuilt the Evanston to Pascagoula section and placed it in operation on February 1, 1923. Since that time, MSE has rebuilt some motive power. Between 1922 and 1946, MSE owned seven 2-8-0’s, two 2-6-0’s, and a 4-6-0 (all steam locomotives). MSE purchased its first diesels in 1940, two 44-tonners from GE. The road was completely dieselized by 1946 with the purchase of a GE 70-tonner. Several other diesels were bought over the years, including another 44-tonner, 3 more 70-tonners, a GP-9, a NW-5, a SW-7, a SW-1500, an Alco C-420, three GP-38-2’s and a GP-40-2.

Today, the Mississippi Export Railroad is a 42-mile short line railroad extending from Evanston to Pascagoula. It is the north-south corridor connecting the Canadian National Railroad (CN) and the east-west line of CSX Transportation (CSXT). MSE also connects with the Norfolk Southern (NS) in Mobile, AL, and Hattiesburg, MS, and Kansas City Southern (KCS) in Jackson, MS, through haulage agreements. These connections and their alliances link the Gulf of Mexico to all points on the continent.

For more information on MSE and its fleet of engines, please visit [www.mserr.com](http://www.mserr.com).