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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 30, 2004

Knoxville Citizens Ride Cleaner in Biodiesel Mass Transit

Up to six pumps also open in eastern Tennessee, signifying it as a growing biodiesel state

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) offers its riders not just transportation to their destinations, but a cleaner-breathing, healthier experience they might not get in other cities. KAT has increased its mass transit fleet's use of biodiesel to a B20 blend (20 percent biodiesel/80 percent diesel). KAT's Clean Fuels program includes over 100 diesel buses and other vehicles.

American-made biodiesel is an alternative fuel that can be made from any fat or vegetable oil, such as soybean oil. It can be used in diesel engines with little or no modification. Biodiesel can be used in its pure form (B100), or blended with petroleum diesel at any level.

Barry Greenberg, KAT Director of Maintenance, explains that the demonstration began with B5 before expanding to B20, and he hopes to further increase the percent blend in the next year. "We're hopeful that production of biodiesel in Tennessee will come to fruition so that we'll know that more of our money is helping the Tennessee economy," he said. "That helps us help Tennessee grow its renewable and cleaner fuels future."

To add to eastern Tennessee's biodiesel use, three retail biodiesel blend pumps have opened this year there, and more are set to open soon, said the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC). Alcoa, Newport and Loudon locations of Mr. Gas Texacos now offer B20 as does a station for Callaway Oil in Maryville. Callaway Oil is a major distributor for the retail biodiesel movement in Tennessee, and it is looking at several more locations for possible public B20 pumps. Crockett Farmers Coop in Alamo sells B2 blend. Between four and ten public B5 pumps are set to open in Knoxville, according to ETCFC, and the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board (TSPB) reports that at least three biodiesel plants are being planned.

Jonathan Overly, executive director of the ETCFC said, "People in East Tennessee are really getting into biodiesel. In this region, ten counties are already non-attainment for ozone and nine are expected to be non-attainment for EPA's new particulate matter standard. Biodiesel blends, which in our area include a low-Nox additive, help us work on reducing both these pollutants simultaneously. For us, biodiesel is a three-way win... cleaner, renewable and American."

"Tennessee has worked to become a bigger player in the biodiesel picture because we producers
(more)

want to help further demand for this renewable, domestic fuel that lessens our reliance on foreign petroleum, while giving soybean oil increased byproduct value,” said David Womack, a National Biodiesel Board (NBB) director, TSPB representative and soybean farmer. “You know we really believe in biodiesel’s importance in the U.S.’s future because we have contributed our soybean checkoff dollars to its development.”

Other Tennessee fleets using biodiesel blends include Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Blount County Highway Department, and the City of Alcoa. In March, The Great Smoky Mountains National Park took delivery of 500 gallons of B20 and now fuels 35 off road vehicles with it. Officials there hope to ease the entire Tennessee side of the park into B20 use.

More than 400 major fleets use biodiesel commercially nationwide including all four branches of the military, NASA, Harvard, National Park Service, U.S. Postal Service and others. About 300 retail filling stations make various biodiesel blends available to the public, and more than 1,000 petroleum distributors carry it nationwide.

Biodiesel is nontoxic, biodegradable and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel offers similar fuel economy, horsepower and torque to petroleum diesel while providing superior lubricity. It significantly reduces emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, unburned hydrocarbons and sulfates. On a lifecycle basis, biodiesel reduces carbon dioxide by 78 percent compared to petroleum diesel, making it the most effective greenhouse gas mitigation technology currently available for heavy-duty vehicles and equipment.

Based in Jefferson City, Mo., NBB is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to coordinating the biodiesel industry and educating the public about the fuel. NBB membership is comprised of state, national, and international feedstock and processor organizations; biodiesel suppliers; fuel marketers and distributors; and technology providers. NBB is largely led by soybean producers who contribute their checkoff dollars to biodiesel development through the United Soybean Board.

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Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <http://www.biodiesel.org>. Readers can visit www.etcfc.org to learn more about the ETCFC.