



Executive Committee Conference Call
10 a.m. Eastern, September 8, 2009
866-886-5735, 7124723

I. Introductions

The following members were in attendance:

John Maniscalco
Tom Tubman
David Martin
Eric Slifka
Bob Hedden
Jim Buhrmaster
Jeff Turner
John Huber
Peter Carini
Molly Brady
Will Lawes
Shane Sweet

II. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2009

A motion to approve minutes from the August 11, 2009 conference call was made by Mr. John Maniscalco and duly seconded by Mr. Dave Martin and approved by voice.

III. Research and Development

Mr. Huber discussed the meeting that occurred in Maine with Maine BioProducts. Mr. Huber, along with a delegation representing the heating oil industry visited Maine on August 26, 2009 for a meeting with Maine BioProducts to learn about a process that can transform wood and waste materials into a heating oil additive. The heating oil industry is investigating this new technology and the possibility of incorporating Bioproducts with oil heat for a more green friendly fuel option. Maine Bioproducts will primarily use forest biomass to produce ethyl levulinate. The advantages of this product are, it blends with diesel and biodiesel, operates at very low temperature and improves lubricity. NORA is now reviewing documents about the process and the company and may conduct research on this fuel. It may be one of the best ideas to develop a renewable fuel in heating oil country, and provide another option to help lower costs for heating homes.

Mr. Huber asked for a vote to allocate \$100,000 for the development of ethyl levulinate. The following concerns for this product will be tested:

- 1) seal swelling
- 2) longer term pump run tests with different seal materials (buna, viton, carbon face, teflon)
- 3) separation potential over a range of temperatures, and concentrations (blended with 2 oil) and impacts on cosolvents such as biodiesel
- 4) impact of tank bottom water on properties and separation potential
- 5) tank and fuel line corrosion aspects
- 6) combustion characteristics - ignition, emissions (expected to be good)
- 7) sludge solvency and downstream impacts
- 8) longer term storage stability

There was a general discussion about the advantages and the disadvantages of this product. Overall the group seemed eager to start this R&D project.

Mr. Huber discussed the Robur Unit, stating this unit allows the burning of heating oil in both the summer and the winter. There is currently a working unit at Brookhaven Laboratory; however testing is still in progress. This unit will allow 140 percent efficiency for both heating and air conditioning; the equivalent to an eight to ten SEER. There was a general discussion about this unit and as well as other units regarding reaching a higher efficiency for heating oil.

IV. Education and Training

Mr. Hedden stated that NORA is in the process of making a Catalog of Information and Classes available for students. There is a possibility that this can be available as applications on cell phones such as the iPhone and the Google phone.

V. GAO Investigation

Recently the GAO review has been an ongoing project that NORA is continuing to work diligently to complete. After an initial discussion, GAO requested 26 items, shortly there after they requested half a dozen more items. GAO has been looking at procedural things and expenditures. Mr. Huber stated that the items requested are not unusual, and that it was anticipated. GAO has asked for an additional 48 items, thus far NORA has replied to 41 of those 48 items.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Huber discussed the 2010 Leadership Team. Mr. Huber discussed that Mr. Lipton and Mr. Scuder needs to be removed from the committee and replacing one of these two with Mr. Ed Noonan and making him a future vice chairperson. There was a general discussion about the candidate and the group seemed to agree overall.

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Chairman called for an adjournment at 11:04 am.