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# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **U.S. Navy Calls for Broad Use of Biodiesel at Navy and Marine Facilities** *New B20 Policy Will Lead to Greater Use of Domestically Produced Alternative Fuel*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Demonstrating federal leadership in the use of biodiesel, the U.S. Department of the Navy recently announced a new policy that will lead to greater use of the domestically produced fuel and increase U.S. energy security by reducing dependence on foreign sources of oil. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (Installations and Environment) Wayne Arny has issued a memorandum that establishes a policy that all U.S. Navy and Marine non-tactical diesel vehicles shall operate on a blend of 20% biodiesel fuel (B20) no later than June 1, 2005.

A cleaner-burning alternative to petroleum-based diesel, biodiesel is made from renewable resources like soybeans and other natural fats and oils, grown in the United States. It can be used in its pure form (B100) or can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel. It can be used in diesel engines with few or no modifications. The U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines all use B20, a mixture of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel, at different bases and stations throughout the country.

“We commend the Navy for its leadership role in advancing the use of biodiesel and other alternative fuels,” said Joe Jobe, NBB executive director. “With the U.S. importing more than half of all oil consumed, turning to domestic energy sources like biodiesel is critical. The Navy is setting a positive example for the rest of the nation with this new policy.”

Jobe added that the Navy is the largest user of diesel fuel in the world, and is charged with protecting shipping routes to import petroleum to the United States. “Naval leaders clearly recognize the responsibility the Navy has to reduce its own use of petroleum, and we commend them for that.”

The January 18, 2005 Navy memo provided guidance for biodiesel use including that it can be supplied by the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) and used where adequate fuel tanks are available. The policy does not apply to tactical military equipment or deployable commercial equipment intended to support contingency operations.

In 2003, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) in Port Hueneme, Calif. began a unique pilot program making biodiesel from its own biodiesel processing unit. Eventually, the Navy could send portable biodiesel processing units overseas to produce its own fuel while on missions abroad. This could give the U.S. military a tactical advantage should fuel supplies be compromised.

Other Naval facilities that use biodiesel include: Navy Public Works Center San Diego, CA; Navy Public Works Center Washington, DC; Navy Public Works Center Pearl Harbor, HI; Naval Air Station JRB Willow Grove, PA; Commander of Navy Region Northwest, Everett, WA; Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Puget Sound, Bremerton, WA.

Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have fully completed the rigorous Health Effects testing required by the Clean Air Act. Results show biodiesel poses significantly less of a risk to human health than petroleum diesel. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) comprehensive technical report of biodiesel emissions data shows the exhaust emissions of particulate matter from pure biodiesel are about 47 percent lower than overall particulate matter emissions from diesel. Breathing particulate has been shown to be a human health hazard. Biodiesel emissions also reduce by 80 to 90 percent potential cancer causing compounds called Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and nitrated PAH. Biodiesel also reduces emissions of total unburned hydrocarbons, a contributing factor to smog and ozone, by about 68 percent. Carbon monoxide is reduced by about 48 percent.

The United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs funded much of the development of the biodiesel industry in the United States. Soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars in bringing biodiesel into commercial success. Today, it is the fastest growing alternative fuel in America, and about 500 major fleets use biodiesel nationwide. Biodiesel has similar horsepower, torque and BTU content compared to petroleum diesel. It offers excellent lubricity and higher cetane than diesel fuel. Biodiesel is registered with the EPA as a fuel and fuel additive.

*Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <http://www.biodiesel.org>.*

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