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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Biodiesel Stands Up to Sub-Zero Temperatures

Cold Climate Users Report Biodiesel Success in Winter Months

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.– When snow falls at a rate of several inches per hour and all signs point to perfect weekend ski conditions, Jim Mersereau knows he has a lot riding on successful operation of his snow grooming equipment. Because thousands of skiers depend on him, he must be confident that his biodiesel-powered Bombardier groomers will operate on the coldest, darkest New Hampshire nights.

"We know that even with heavy snow falling and temperatures hovering around 20 below, we can count on our biodiesel-powered vehicles to start up and perform with no problems at all," said Mersereau, Operations Director for New Hampshire's Cranmore Mountain Resort. "We have been very pleased with biodiesel's performance and have had absolutely no cold weather problems."

In 2003, Cranmore Mountain, located in North Conway, NH, joined other ski resorts nationwide, such as Aspen, Colo., in fueling its snow grooming fleet with B20 (a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel). A grant from the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC) helped Cranmore make the switch to B20 and install a 4,000-gallon above ground fuel storage tank. Since then, Cranmore has continued to use B20 in its equipment and is now using Bioheat fuel to heat its buildings as well.

"Cranmore Mountain is one of many examples demonstrating that it is a myth that you can't use B20 in cold weather," said Joe Jobe, CEO of NBB. "As we enter the coldest time of year in many parts of the country, biodiesel users can rest assured that precautions such as using high quality fuel and following proper blending procedures, biodiesel blends are reliable even in sub-zero temperatures."

Like regular diesel fuel, biodiesel can gel at very low temperatures. Richard Nelson, Director of Engineering Extension for Kansas State University's College of Engineering, says users can prepare for this in a number of ways.

"The most important precaution users can take is to make sure they work with a reputable supplier and are using biodiesel that meets the national standard, ASTM D 6751," Nelson said. "Secondly, they need to understand that good fuel management is extremely important, and that is amplified in

winter."

Common winter practices to ensure diesel engines have a warm reception for B20 include:

- Blending biodiesel with kerosene
- Blending biodiesel with diesel that has been treated with cold weather additives
- Block and filter heaters
- Indoor vehicle storage

This will be the fifth winter Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. has put such practices in place using B20 in its 70 diesel vehicles. The fleet includes snow plows, shuttle buses, solid waste and recycling trucks, landscape services vehicles, tractors and pick-up trucks. David E. Harris Jr., General Manager of Transportation Services, says Harvard's original decision to use biodiesel "was all about going to a cleaner burning fuel and reducing emissions in and around Cambridge and Boston. We wanted to get ahead of the regulations and be a leader in this area. Now we see biodiesel as a dynamic triangle – it's cleaner burning, renewable, and reduces our dependence on foreign oil."

Harris added that the precautions he takes with biodiesel are good practice with diesel fuel, as well.

Biodiesel is a cleaner burning alternative fuel that can be used in any diesel engine. A domestically produced, renewable fuel, it can be made from animal fats or vegetable oil. The use of biodiesel in a conventional diesel engine results in a substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter.
For technical guidance on using B20 in cold weather and for additional examples of "Cool Customers" who successfully use biodiesel blends year-round, visit www.biodiesel.org/cold.

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More information about biodiesel can be found at www.biodiesel.org. The National Biodiesel Board is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.