



E15 Vocal Proponents Joined by Cautionary Voices

As reported in the February 2009 issue of Tank Talk, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency have begun discussions aimed at raising ethanol blending levels to as high as 15 percent. At the same time, the DOE and other agencies are looking at whether non-flexible fuel vehicles can operate satisfactorily on blends of E15 and E20.

Since the last issue, the topic of ethanol blends has picked up additional support from high-profile individuals including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Both spoke on March 9 at the National Farmers Union convention in Arlington, VA (Reuters). Pelosi views the higher blend ethanol as a means of reducing U.S. dependence on petroleum imports. Based on his remarks, Vilsack is interested in a stepped approach to the blend increase. He believes that we "can move fairly quickly to move the blend rate to 12 or 13 percent" and added that it could eventually be boosted to 15 or 20 percent (3/9/09, Reuters). Meanwhile, [Ford Motor Company](#) has supported efforts to increase base level blends up to E15 in order to drive consensus around a solution.

Just days before the NFU convention, on March 6, Growth Energy and 51 ethanol producers submitted a [request for waiver under the Clean Air Act](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve the use of ethanol blended with gasoline up to 15 percent. Their position is that increasing the blend of ethanol in gasoline by an additional five percent will help boost the economy by creating American jobs, increasing energy independence, enhancing auto performance and 'greening' the environment.

Growth Energy and the ethanol producers acknowledged current EPA and USDA short-term efforts to provide a substantially similar waiver to the Clean Air Act for E12 and E13, and requested that EPA review its application while studying the merits and data relative to the 211(f)(4) waiver for E15 within the 270 day timeframe.

The request to EPA cited the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) that requires 36 billion gallons of renewal fuel be blended into the domestic fuel supply 2022. It is their position that the requirements under EISA 2007 cannot be realized unless the current restrictions on ethanol blends are removed.

The remarks and the positions of these proponents of mid-level ethanol blends came on the heels and in sharp contrast to the cautionary rhetoric of a coalition of 13 automobile and small engine manufacturers that have said current test data is insufficient and such an increase may harm engines, increase emissions and pose consumer safety concerns.

On March 6, the National Marine Manufacturers Association ([NMMA](#)) issued a [press release](#) in which it

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reported that a coalition of groups named in the release called for a thorough, science-based review by EPA to increase the blend level of ethanol that can be added to motor gasoline.

The groups called for consideration of an increase in the current limit on blending ethanol to be undertaken through an open, public and transparent process. They reported that this thorough, scientific review will ensure that all points of view, not just the interests of the promoters of mid-level ethanol blends, be taken into account by EPA before deciding whether to permit higher blends to be sold to consumers.

EPA's press secretary, Adora Andy, said in a statement March 9 (Associated Press) that it is up to the EPA to lift the cap, and the agency will review the request and "act based on the best available science." STI/SPFA and other organizations will be following developments closely to report on this topic as the debate and review continue.

Correction to February Article, UST Program Facts

Our article indicated that there are over 600,000 active Underground Storage Tanks at approximately 235,000 sites. In referring to the November 2008 letter from EPA OUST, with 2.5 or more USTs per site and 100,000 site inspections, this could account for as many as 250,000 UST inspections performed in 2008, not the 100,000 tank inspections we reported. We apologize for the oversight.

STI/SPFA Member Products & Safety Records Honored

Each year, STI/SPFA honors its members with a series of Awards to recognize steel fabricated projects that best represent the advantages and flexibility of steel construction. We honor companies instrumental in the creation, construction and implementation of such projects.

STI/SPFA is pleased this year to recognize multiple 2008 steel fabrication projects, the 2008 Affiliate New Product of the Year and numerous member companies for their safety records. The 2008 awards were recently presented at the STI/SPFA 2009 Annual Meeting. Photos of all award winners can be viewed on our [website](#).

2008 Award Winners

In the [Fabricated Project of the Year, Special Fabrication Category](#), the 2008 Awards were made to **Brown-Minneapolis Tank Co.** of Albuquerque, NM and **Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc.** of Paola, KS. Brown-Minneapolis produced a Temporary Spillway Weir Leaf Assembly constructed to protect spawning salmon in the McNary Dam on the Columbia River in Walla Walla, WA. The Taylor Forge Special Fabrication Category project is located in Dohar, Qatar. It is a Pipe Slug Catcher that receives flow from a 100-mile long, offshore pipeline and separates natural gas, hydrocarbon liquids and water and feeds the outlet product to a large, liquefied natural gas complex.

2008 Tanks of the Year – Standpipe, Elevated & Special Storage Categories

T Bailey, Inc. of Anacortes, WA received recognition in the [Reservoir Category](#) for its "Queen Anne Water Reservoir" tank located at the top of one of the seven historic hills and neighborhoods in Seattle, WA.

In the [Standpipe Category](#), **Fisher Tank Co.** of Cropwell, AL received the award for its construction of a 331,000 gallon fire suppression water tank located at the Gulfport Biloxi International Airport in Gulfport, MS.

In the [Elevated Steel Tank Category](#), the award went to **CB&I, Inc.** of Bolingbrook, IL for construction of a one million gallon water tank in Northville, MI that incorporates a controlled environment for telemetry and sensing equipment.

CBI Services, Inc. was recognized in the [Special Storage Systems Category](#) for the construction of two, egg-shaped digesters with a capacity of 2.8 million gallons and an overall height of 112.3 feet. The Special

Storage System was installed adjacent to the Spokane River in Washington State. A metal-clad texture and color scheme were chosen to minimize the visual impact to the river and its surroundings.

Other Member Company Award Winners

Ward Tank & Heat Exchanger Corp. of Charlotte, NC was awarded the [Pressure Vessel Product of the Year for 2008](#) for two 15'-9" internal diameter Alloy 400 Reactors with internal manifolds. These 72' high reactors were manufactured with complex internal distributor manifolds and external ladders and platforms.

In addition, STI/SPFA honored two of its members as recipients of the [Pipeline Project of the Year for 2008](#) – **American SpiralWeld Pipe** of Columbia, SC, a subsidiary of American Cast Iron Pipe Company, and **Mid-America Pipe Fabricating & Supply, LLC**, of Scammom, KS. The companies joined forces to manufacture pipe and fittings for what will be the largest ultraviolet disinfection facility in the world. The new plant, located in Mt. Pleasant, NY, will treat 90 percent of New York City's drinking water and serve approximately nine million customers.

STI/SPFA recognized **RTLC Piping Products Inc.** of Kosse, TX with its [Pipe Fabrication of the Year Award for 2008](#) for an Interconnect Manifold that joins the Lake Fork and Iron Bridge Pump Stations of the Dallas Water Utilities in Dallas, TX. RTLC was responsible for the design, fabrication, coating, lining and delivery to the utility.

The [2008 Affiliate Member New Product of the Year Award Winner](#) was **Clay & Bailey Manufacturing, Co.** of Kansas City, MO. Clay & Bailey introduced the #544 Outward Flange Manway Spinning Manufacturing Process that produces a manway with a straight, vertical collar. The new process allows for collar lengths of two to 10 inches, whereas previous manufacturing methods resulted in a limited number of collar lengths that required additional welding time and labor for installation.

Safety Awards to STI/SPFA Member Companies

Please be sure to review the list of member companies on the [STI/SPFA website](#) who were recognized for superior safety records and received STI/SPFA Safety Awards of Excellence and Safety Awards of Achievement.

Upcoming Events

March 22 - 26
[NACE International Corrosion 2009 Conference & Exposition](#)
Atlanta, GA

March 30 - April 1
[2009 Annual National Tanks Conference & Expo](#),
sponsored by NEIWPC & EPA
Sacramento, CA

April 19 – 22
[Alternate Fuels & Vehicles National Conference & Exposition](#)
Orlando, FL

April 20 – 24
[STI/SPFA AST Inspector Training](#)
Baltimore, MD

April 22
[STI/SPFA Field Erect Water Tank Seminar](#)

Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, PA
Harrisburg, PA

April 25 – 28

[National Association of Fleet Administrators](#)

2009 Institute & Exposition
New Orleans, LA

April 27 – 29

[API Spring Refining & Equipment Standards Meeting](#)

Denver, CO

April 28 – 29

[Freshwater Spills Symposium](#)

St. Louis, MO

May 1-2

STI Quality Control Meeting

May 8

[STI/SPFA Steel Pipe Webinar](#)

Details on STI/SPFA website

May 13

[STI/SPFA Field Erect Water Tank Seminar](#)

Embassy Suites
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