# **EPA Finalizes Reformulated** Gasoline Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced two actions designed to help cities reduce smog, boost the Midwest economy, and help America's farmers.

The agency issued a final rule and a proposed rule that underscore the Administration's commitment to a process that addresses the concerns of states, industry, farmers, and environmental and consumer groups in determining policy.

First, EPA issued its reformulated gasoline rule, a major clean fuel program under the Clean Air Act. This rule will reduce smog forming emissions in the nation's largest cities by nearly 30 percent by the year 2000, bringing substantially cleaner air and health benefits.

In addition, EPA is asking for comment on a separate proposal to assure a market for renewable fuels, namely ethanol and ETBE, an oxygenate made from ethanol, in the reformulated gas program.

The agency said the reformulated gasoline program is one of the most environmentally significant initiatives provided in the Clean Air Act for controlling ozone-forming compounds and toxic emissions.

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner said, "The reformulated fuel program is one of hte most effective ways to reduce ozone emissions and it is the first program to directly address toxic emissions from motor vehicles. This federal program will greatly help many areas to achieve air quality standards and improve public health for millions of Americans."

The second action is a separate proposal to assure a market for renewable fuels, namely ethanol and ETBE in the reformulated gas program. The proposed rulemaking would assure that a 30 percent share of the oxygen required in the reformulated gasoline program would come from renewable oxygenates.

"The renewable fuel proposal would create additional markets for ethanol and ETBE. This will bring jobs and investment to farmers and reduce over dependence on imported oil," Browner said. "EPA's proposal would help farmers by boosting the demand for ethanol and ETBE while protecting our environment."

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, commenting on EPA's rule, said, "This proposal demonstrates President Clinton's strong commitment to support ethanol and the ethanol ether ETBE. One of my top priorities is improving farm income and this initiative will do just that. Farmers will enjoy new market demand for their used to make ethanol. Jobs in rural areas and new investment will be created by this proposal. At the same time, we will be protecting our environment and improving the nation's energy security.'

Ozone is a severe irritant that damages lung tissue and aggravates respiratory disease. Exposure to elevated levels may cause permanent lung damage. Ozone is the result of chemical reactions involving hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and sunlight.

Vehicle emissions are estimated to be responsible for about half of the cancer risk associated with all air toxic pollutants. Nationally, they contribute 36 percent of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the air and about 45 percent of nitrogen oxides, the two primary pollutants that form ozone.

The Clean Air Act requires the reformulated gasoline program to begin Jan. 1, 1995, in areas with the highest levels of ozone. Those cities are Los Angeles, Baltimore, Chicago,

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Diego and Hartford. Other areas that exceed the ozone air quality standard may also participate in the reformulated gasoline program. If all eligible areas opt into the program, reformulated gasoline would account for about 55 percent of U.S. gasoline sales.

So far, Washington, D.C, as well as some or all of the nonattainment areas in 13 states have adopted the program, accounting for about 30 percent of U.S. fuel market.

Reformulated gasoline is expected initially to reduce volatile VOCs and toxic pollut-

ants from vehicles 15 to 17 percent relative to 1990 baseline gasoline. By the year 2000, VOC reductions will be reduced 25 to 29 percent. Toxic emissions will be reduced by 20 to 22 percent and NOx by 5 to 7 percent.

In addition to health and environmental benefits, the use of reformulated gasoline in the nine required areas will reduce demand for oil imports by 300,000 barrels a day.

The agency expects to expedite the rulemaking for the proposed 30 percent renewable fuels requirement with a public hearing in mid-January 1994 and issue a final rule next June.



## corn and other commodities

Corn Conference Schedule

(Continued from Page 4)

On behalf of the board of directors of PMCGA and the 1994 Corn Conference Committee, we'd like to invite you to this years state corn conference. We've focused again on bringing you state-of-the art information on those things that effect your bottom line - crop storage, soil compaction, crop management, and government regulations We'll also present the Five Acre Corn Club Awards. As usual, you'll be able to meet and visit with some of the states top corn growers, extension specialists, and industry representatives.

> 1994 Corn Conference Committee

> > **Bob Anderson** Rob Kauffman Tım Markovits **Grant Troop Greg Roth** John Rowehl J. Allan Shoener

### **Program**

8:30 - 9:30 Registration/Visit Exhibits -Coffee and Danishes!

9:30 - 9 40 Opening Remarks H. Grant Troop, President, PMCGA

9 40 - 10 10 Clean water, wetlands and corn growers- a Washington perspective Dave Stawick Assistant Vice President

National Corn Growers Association Washington, DC

10 10 - 10 55 Ethanol, coal desulfurization, and other new uses of corn Mike Wagner **Executive Director** Ohio Corn Growers Association

10 55 - 11.15 Move to Breakouts

11.15 - Noon Breakout Sessions - Select one

Room A: Biotechnology and corn breeding: an industry perspective Dan Lehmann Vice President for Administration Greensboro, NC

Room B - Managing and correcting soil compaction Randali Reeder Extension Ag Engineer Ohio State University

Room C. Troubleshooting himoisture corn and corn silage problems Dr Jerry Berger

**Director of Technical Services** Silage Inoculant Product Line Pioneer Hi-bred International, Inc.

Noon - 1 30 Lunch, visit exhibits

1 30 - 2.00 5-Acre Corn Club Awards and results wrap up for 1993 Greg Roth Extension Agronomist Penn State University

200 - 2:10 Move to Breakouts

2 10 - 2:55 Repeat Breakout Sessions A, B, C

What you should know about the weather to grow corn Dr. Joseph Russo Zedx, Inc. Boalsburg, PA

3 30 Adjourn Have a safe trip home!

#### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for the conference are \$10 and include coffee, danishes and lunch Tickets are available through local county extension offices or from PMCGA, P.O. Box 304, State College, PA, 16804. Make checks payable to PMCGA Tickets should be purchased by Jan. 28 At the door, tickets will be

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