



Coming sometime to pumps near you: E85, ethanol blends & algae biofuels

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Washington, Jan. 13 – While the wait continues for the postponed EPA decision on raising the ethanol blend level from the current 10% for conventional vehicles (E10), the Department of Energy (DOE) isn't waiting. On Wednesday, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced a \$102 million joint public/private effort both to accelerate biofuels production and to install "blender" pumps as well as E85 pumps for flex-fuel vehicles "along key driving corridors and areas with higher concentrations of flexible fuel vehicles."

Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, DOE is awarding:

- \$44 million to the National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (NAABB), led by the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, to develop a systems approach for sustainable commercialization of algal biofuel including renewable gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel.
- \$33.8 million to the National Advanced Biofuels Consortium (NABC), led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, to develop "infrastructure-compatible, biomass-based hydrocarbon fuels." The aim is to be able to use the existing refining and distribution infrastructure for the new biofuels.
- \$1.6 million to the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, Growth Energy and three other groups for eight infrastructure projects to support expanded fueling availability for ethanol blends offered at existing retail fueling locations in Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. The projects will install E85 pumps, retrofit existing pumps to dispense E85, and install blender pumps that offer ethanol blends up to 85 percent at over 60 stations.

Tom Buis, CEO of Growth Energy which received \$200,000 for one of the eight infrastructure awards, said that "Growth Energy applauds the continued support of Secretary Chu and the Obama administration to further the production and availability of homegrown, renewable fuels. By increasing the use of ethanol in America, we will create

new green collar jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, strengthen our national security, and improve the environment.”

DOE expects its own \$79 million investment to be matched by \$23 million in private sector funding, to deliver a total \$102 million boost for biofuels.

In announcing this latest government support for biofuels, Sec. Chu said that “Advanced biofuels are crucial to building a clean energy economy. By harnessing the power of science and technology, we can bring new biofuels to the market and develop a cleaner and more sustainable transportation sector. This investment will help spur the creation of the domestic bio-industry, while creating jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.”

DOE noted that the biofuels-from-algae work “will integrate resources from companies, universities, and national laboratories to overcome the critical barriers of cost, resource use and efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, and commercial viability. It will develop and demonstrate the science and technology necessary to significantly increase production of algal biomass and lipids, efficiently harvest and extract algae and algal products, and establish valuable certified co-products that scale with renewable fuel production. Co-products include animal feed, industrial feedstocks, and additional energy generation. Multiple test sites will cover diverse environmental regions to facilitate broad deployment.”

For a complete list and project descriptions of these latest DOE awards, go to: www.energy.gov/news2009/documents2009/ARRA_Projects_0112110.pdf.

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