



May 15, 2006

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To Our Project Partners at PSCAA:

On behalf of the entire Puget Sound Fleet Biodiesel Study Team, I am very pleased to submit the "Puget Sound Regional Fleet Biodiesel Fuel Study."

In your charge to our team, you asked that we undertake an examination of the biodiesel implementation challenges encountered by King County Metro, City of Seattle, and City of Tacoma. In lieu of a controlled study, you asked our team to conduct a historical, evidence-based chemical and fuel handling analysis of fuel samples, fueling infrastructure, and supply chain handling characteristics.

Thus, we constructed a data collection approach that was submitted for peer review, and approved. We collected study samples and conducted interviews according to the project plan. We then thoroughly analyzed the scientific results with our laboratory partners, analyzed qualitative data sets, sought additional information from invited experts, and deliberated on the results. As a result of incomplete or inconclusive data, including the absence of critical historical data sets and samples, certain questions were rendered unanswerable. Despite those investigative limitations, we compiled conclusive statements and a comprehensive rationale for the results we were able to obtain. This evidence-based analysis of the science formed the basis for our final recommendations. As a result of this rigorous approach, we believe that the scientific documentation for our major messages has been done more systematically and meticulously than that of previous biodiesel studies in this region.

During the Team's deliberations, an overall theme for our report emerged. Collectively, available data show a lack of understanding of the unique handling and implementation characteristics required for a successful biodiesel program. While the scope of this study does not allow the Team to write comprehensive guidelines for biodiesel use, it is clear that the industry standard guidelines are not being followed by the biodiesel users or fuel distributors included in this study.

While limited in scope, we hope this study serves as a foundation for improved biodiesel implementation practices.

On behalf of the entire Team, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve our fellow citizens in this way. Although the charge to our Team seemed daunting at times, we learned a tremendous amount from serving and benefited personally from the process. We appreciate your trust in us to accomplish this important task of making a contribution to cleaner air in our community.

I want to emphasize that this report could not have been completed without the excellent, diligent work of our peer reviewers: Robert McCormick, PhD, National Renewable Energy Lab/DOE; Randall Von Wedel, CytoCulture Lab; and Mark Brady, Puget Sound Clean Cities. They provided context and unparalleled scientific review of the study plan and results. The hard work and extensive contributions of Jeff Stephens, PhD, need special recognition. In addition, several biodiesel industry experts provided review on condition of confidentiality.

The Team looks forward to the subsequent discussion this report will generate. We believe that our recommendations will provide a strong foundation for biodiesel implementation in the Puget Sound region. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my colleagues should you wish to discuss this report with us.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Elam
President, Propel Biofuels