



**Locomotive/Rail Sector Working Group
Conference Call Meeting Summary**
Wednesday, December 12, 2007; 10am-11am PST

Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy Update

Sarah Flagg, Port of Seattle, provided an update on the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to reduce diesel and greenhouse gas emissions in the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin region by achieving early reductions in advance of, and complementary to, applicable regulations. Three ports – the Port of Seattle, the Port of Tacoma and the Vancouver Port Authority – are developing the Strategy in collaboration with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Environment Canada. The Strategy will be presented to the Ports in 2008 for formal adoption.

A short-term Strategy goal is to have an agreement in place by the end of 2008 that would bring together the major Port railways, the Ports, and the air agencies to work to reduce diesel emissions in a collaborative way. This agreement would establish performance measures and operational best practices for reducing emissions from the rail sector in port operations. The Strategy also lists some possible short- and long-term actions for meeting the Strategy’s greenhouse gas and diesel emission reduction goals.

For the latest copy of the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, visit:
http://www.portseattle.org/downloads/community/environment/NWCleanAirStrat_20071.pdf

Richmond Pacific Biodiesel Lessons Learned

John Cockle, Richmond Pacific, briefed the group on Richmond Pacific’s experiences with biodiesel. Lance McCardle, LC Biofuels, also contributed to this presentation. Richmond Pacific has been using biodiesel in one of their locomotives since August 2007, starting with B5 (5% biodiesel) and transitioning to B20 by November. The biodiesel is a soybean oil-based fuel distributed by LC Biofuels that is formulated to work with locomotive engines. Richmond Pacific has been satisfied with the performance of this fuel, and is considering switching their entire fleet to biodiesel mixtures in 2008. LC Biofuels suggests that those interested in switching their rail fleets to biodiesel start at a B5 mixture and increase gradually to B20, while monitoring the engine fuel filters for any problems. LC Biofuels also recommends that locomotive engines that use biodiesel have synthetic fuel lines in order to prevent degradation.

Ideas for Rail Workgroup

The group discussed possible changes for the rail workgroup and next steps forward.

- In 2008, the rail workgroup will hold calls approximately every three months, with intermediate calls when emerging issues warrant discussion by the larger group.
- The workgroup discussed the possibilities of holding calls with some of the rail workgroups in the other regional diesel collaborative, in order to expand the knowledge base of lessons learned and best practices. Kristin Riha, Sector Lead, will reach out to the other collaborative rail groups to gauge interest in holding cross-region calls.



- The group discussed a possible face to face meeting or event at the Faster Freight – Cleaner Air conference in Los Angeles in February. Kristin Riha will send an email to the workgroup to gauge interest in a meeting associated with the conference.

Announcements

The FY2007 Clean Diesel RFP for Region 9 is available. Projects awarded funds will demonstrate effective emissions reductions from existing diesel engine operations in ways that are new, innovative or experimental. EPA Region 9 anticipates awarding a total of approximately \$500,000 under this announcement. Proposals are due February 15, 2008. For more information on the RFP, visit the West Coast Collaborative homepage at <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org>.

Participant List*

John Brock, US EPA Region 9
Michael Coats, Diesel Technology Forum
John Cockle, Richmond Pacific Railroad
Kevin Cooper, Energy Fuels
Kevin Downing, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Sarah Flagg, Port of Seattle
Tom Gardiner, Cummins Northwest
Alan Hardy, Tacoma Rail
Roxanne Johnson, US EPA Region 9
Matt Mahler, North Carolina Dept. of Environmental and Natural Resources
Sharon Mahoney, North Carolina Department of Transportation
Lance McCartle, LC Biofuels
Peter Okurowski, California Environmental Associates (representing AAR)
Dennis Pipkin, North Carolina Department of Transportation Research office
Christine Rigby, Vancouver Port Authority
Kristin Riha, US EPA Region 9
Mike Stanfill, BNSF
Frank Van Haren, Washington State Department of Ecology
Amy Wheelless, Ross & Associates

*Apologies to any participants left off the list.