

For Immediate Release
February 5th, 2009

Renewable Diesel Blends Perform in Cold Weather

Calgary, Alberta - The Alberta Renewable Diesel Demonstration (ARDD), Canada's largest cold-weather study of renewable diesel fuels, has successfully demonstrated the on-road use of low level renewable diesel blends in a range of Canadian climatic conditions.

"The ARDD has confirmed the operability of low level renewable diesel blends in the cold weather conditions tested, and has provided practical information and operational experience to stakeholders in the Canadian diesel fuel industry," says John Rilett, Vice President of Climate Change Central, the organization managing the demonstration.

"Biofuels provide significant environmental benefits when implemented in a sustainable way," said Energy Minister Mel Knight of the project. "Energy research is a part of our Provincial Energy Strategy and renewable energy sources are making an increasingly important contribution to Alberta's energy portfolio and to our objective of clean energy production."

"The Government of Canada continues to support research through our renewable fuels strategy," said Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. "These new sources of cleaner renewable energy will not only offer new market opportunities, but new jobs for rural communities and farmers."

Designed as a two-phased approach, the ARDD involved laboratory testing followed by real-world use of renewable diesel blends by Alberta trucking fleets. The on-road demonstration, which ran from December 2007 to September 2008, put first- and second- generation renewable diesel fuels on the road in 59 long-haul commercial vehicles across Alberta. During winter months, two types of two per cent renewable diesel blends were used: fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) and hydrogenated-derived renewable diesel (HDRD). During the spring and summer, five per cent blends of HDRD and FAME (comprised of 75 per cent canola methyl ester and 25 per cent tallow methyl ester) were dispensed.

"This critical demonstration project confirms similar adverse condition tests in the USA and Europe. Biodiesel is a viable tool in diversifying our energy supply and reducing green house gases in some of the harshest of Canadian weather conditions," says Gordon Quaiattini, President, Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

All fuels dispensed in the demonstration were precisely blended with a commercial-grade, injection blending system, typical of what would be anticipated once the federal Renewable Fuel Standard is implemented. The blended fuels met Canadian General Standards Board specifications for quality and cold weather performance, including cloud points for the areas of Edmonton, Lloydminster and Calgary where the fuels were dispensed. The ARDD was Canada's first demonstration to include ultra low sulphur kerosene for the adjustment of cloud points.

"Shell's commitment to reliable, quality fuels was the driving force behind our participation as the ultra low sulphur diesel fuel supplier and renewable diesel blender for the project," says Les Markiewicz, Shell Canada's General Manager, Commercial Fuels. "Key operational findings will build on Shell's global expertise to implement biofuels best suited for the challenging Canadian climate."

Managed by Climate Change Central, this multi-stakeholder demonstration was sponsored and supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program, Alberta Energy's Biodiesel Commercialization and Market Program and Biodiesel Infrastructure Development



Program, Shell Canada Limited, Canadian Bioenergy Corporation, Canadian Renewable Fuels Association, Canola Council of Canada, Milligan Bio-Tech, Natural Resources Canada, Neste Oil and the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute. Trucking companies involved in the demonstration included Rosenau Transport Ltd., Hi-Way 9, First Bus Canada, Gibson Energy Ltd. and CF Managing Movement Ltd.

Full results from the demonstration are listed in the final report available at www.renewablediesel.ca.

For more information, please contact:
John Rilett, Climate Change Central
(403) 517-2730

