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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Win for Bioheat®: ASTM Approves 5% Biodiesel in Heating Oil *New Biodiesel Standards Pave Path to the Future for Oilheat Industry*

Vancouver, British Columbia – The efforts of the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA), the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), and the Oilheat Manufacturers led by R.W. Beckett met with success yesterday in Vancouver, Canada, as ASTM International (formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials) approved the inclusion of a 5 percent blend of biodiesel (B5) in heating oil.

This effort has been underway for several years, as NORA and NBB identified state and national regulations that could have prevented the use of biodiesel in heating oil applications. John Huber of NORA stated, “Bioheat provides a critical opportunity for the oilheat industry to reposition itself as the green renewable fuel of the future, so knocking down regulatory barriers was essential.”

In that effort, NORA and NBB conducted a multi-layered fact finding process that required a thorough analysis of the fuel, how it would work in equipment, and how it would provide oilheat customers with a fuel that would heat their homes throughout the winter. Paul Nazarro of Advanced Fuel Solutions, Inc., who represents NBB’s petroleum education programs, stated, “We are very excited about this development, and based on the thoroughness of the research conducted over the years, we know that bioheat will perform as well as oilheat in every area, while also providing the oilheat industry with a great path to the future.”

In addition to the efforts of NBB and NORA in this effort, Vic Turk of R.W. Beckett and Steve Howell, Chairman of the ASTM Biodiesel Task Force, championed the process. In addition to Beckett, the other leading burner manufacturers, Carlin and Riello, also invested a great deal of time in testing their burners with this new fuel.

Vic Turk commented, “The approvals for B5 in heating oil and the new requirements for the biodiesel blend stock passed the ASTM committee overwhelmingly with support from not only the biodiesel producers, but also the petroleum industry and the users (burners, diesel engines, accessories, etc.). This is a good indication that we have a sound standard with good technical justification. It's a positive step for our customers, our industry and our country, and I am pleased with this result.”

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The ASTM amendments on the 5% biodiesel blend for heating oil are a vital step in ensuring further growth and use of this important fuel in the home heating marketplace. Michael Ferrante, President of the Massachusetts Oilheat Council, said, “This is further proof that home heating oil customers will be receiving the highest quality biofuel products from their local oilheat dealers.”

Biodiesel is a domestically produced, renewable alternative to diesel fuel and can be made from plant oils, animal fats, recycled cooking oils or new sources such as algae. Biodiesel must be properly processed to meet the approved ASTM specifications regardless of the feedstock used to produce it. Bioheat® fuel is the industry-accepted term for any blend of pure biodiesel with conventional high or low sulfur home heating oil. It can be used in home heating oil systems safely with no modifications to the fuel tanks, pumps or burners in concentrations up to 20% biodiesel with only minimal precautions. Bioheat is rapidly gaining popularity as a “greener” home heating oil option, particularly in the Northeast United States.

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For more information about biodiesel or Bioheat®, visit www.biodiesel.org or www.nora-oilheat.org. This material sponsored by the USDA Biodiesel Education Program.