January 19, 2021

**National Biodiesel Board – Report of Activities October – December 2020**

Project: State Regulatory and Technical Support - Northeast

NBB Program Manager(s): Floyd Vergara, Director of State Governmental Affairs

Submitted by: Brad Shimmens, Director of Operations and Membership

**1. Summarize progress toward project objectives and milestones achieved.**

**(In the write-up, identify specific objectives and milestones from your project proposal.)**

With increasing use of online platforms like Zoom, state regulatory activity has resumed and even accelerated in some cases. The new norm is utilization of Zoom for public hearings and workshops. This technology has allowed much of the regulatory calendar to get back on track.

Below are state-specific updates.

New York State

As you know, the General Assembly and Senate passed legislation last year entitled the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The bill requires economywide decreases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. In June the Climate Advisory Committee release a scoping document that noted roles for biodiesel in several applications, including on-road (B20 by 2030), space heating, and power generation. The Climate Advisory Committee met three times, and their transportation and buildings advisory panels met a similar number of times. NBB staff participated in those meetings and provided expert testimony in several transportation advisory panel meetings on the importance of biodiesel and renewable diesel in low carbon fuel programs, which NY is exploring, as well as in space heating applications. Staff also met several times with Gov. Cuomo's staff to provide technical information to help fill gaps in the Governor's staff's knowledge base regarding low carbon transportation and space heating programs.

Connecticut

The state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) rulemaking resumed in June. It appears the Governor directed the state’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to explore using existing state incentive funds to accelerate use of biodiesel in order to decarbonize the space heating sector. Biodiesel is being explored in recognition of the facts that natural gas supplies are limited and that new sources of electric power (wind, solar) are not near-term solutions. Following this directive, DEEP issued a solicitation requesting answers to approximately 50 technical questions related to biodiesel. The NBB responded in writing to this request and testified during a four-hour public hearing. DEEP staff appeared to have a generally favorable view of biodiesel but seem more inclined to impose a biodiesel blending requirement on marketers rather than incentivize blending with public funding.

That early favorable view notwithstanding, DEEP recently released a draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) report recommending establishment of a renewables portfolio program without the use of biodiesel. That recommendation appeared based on a number of misconceptions, misunderstandings of combustion chemistry, and other errors. NBB staff will provide testimony at upcoming hearings and written comments to clarify these issues, correct the record, and provide additional evidence to bolster the case that using low-carbon, drop-in biodiesel in space heating applications is far preferable from an environmental and public health standpoint than continuing to use conventional petroleum distillate while the state gradually pursues electric heat pumps.

**2. List activities such as workshops, training sessions, planning sessions, media events, etc.**

October

Participated in NY Climate Action Council monthly meeting and the related advisory panel meetings on transportation and buildings.

Participated in and provided comments on CT Governor's Climate Change Council (CT-GC3) meeting on thermal renewable energy credit issues associated with biodiesel.

November

Participated in NY Climate Action Council monthly meeting and the related advisory panel meetings on transportation and buildings.

December

Participated in NY Climate Action Council monthly meeting and the related advisory panel meetings on transportation and buildings. Provided expert testimony at transportation advisory panel meeting on "Electrification and Fuels," leveraging NBB staff's experience with California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard program.

**3. Describe any outreach activities including the formation of new partnerships, interaction with motor fleet operators and coordination efforts with other groups and organizations.**

None.

**4. Describe any problems or unusual developments.**

COVID-19 has decreased state activity through the first three quarters of 2020, which is beginning to pick up again.