

ABasin Switches to Biodiesel Fuel PR May 13 2002

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Arapahoe Basin Switches to Biodiesel as Part of Pollution Prevention Program

Arapahoe Basin, CO - May 13, 2002 - Arapahoe Basin ski area becomes the first company in Summit County to use biodiesel fuel. Last week the ski area received its first shipment of biodiesel, a completely natural, renewable fuel applicable in most situations where conventional petroleum diesel is used.

Biodiesel is 100% vegetable oil based produced mainly from crop oils and used fryer oils. Arapahoe Basin will use a 20% blend of biodiesel mixed with petroleum diesel to fuel its snowcats as well as other diesel equipment next winter.

In its efforts to be environmentally friendly, Arapahoe Basin has chosen to use biodiesel for the following reasons:

- a biodiesel and petroleum blend dramatically reduces air pollution including a 31% reduction in particulate matter, a 21% reduction in carbon monoxide, and a 27 % reduction in total hydrocarbons.
- the refining process of biodiesel can boast zero total emissions in production.
- it is manufactured from farm products or recycled kitchen oils
- it has superior lubricating properties
- it readily blends with petrodiesel and can be stored in current diesel tanks without additional costs for retrofitting
- it has a very high flash point (300 degrees F) and is one of the safest alternative fuels.
- it can be used with existing equipment with minimal impacts on operating performance.

>From 1999 to 2001, Arapahoe Basin officials, worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on a ski industry pollution prevention program. CDPHE contracted with Tetra Tech EM Inc. and the two organizations selected Arapahoe Basin and the Aspen Ski Company as study areas for the program. The project had three primary goals, 1.) Evaluate mountain operations and identify and implement pollution prevention opportunities; 2.) Document pollution prevention practices currently being used, and 3.) Create a pollution prevention handbook that discusses environmental management strategies for ski areas and presents practical information about pollution prevention opportunities. That book, "Greening Your Ski Area, A Pollution Prevention Handbook", was completed in 2001 and was distributed through the National Ski

Areas Association to all of its member areas.

While working on the pollution prevention program, Arapahoe Basin staff first became aware of biodiesel. Food and Beverage Director, Rusty Pawlikowski became interested in biodiesel after learning it was manufactured from used kitchen oils. Although Arapahoe Basin was already recycling its kitchen oils, Pawlikowski said "This sounds like a great idea. We can use various natural products in our kitchen and then recycle them into a fuel for our mountain grooming equipment."

Vehicle Maintenance Manager Mike Lucas had been studying biodiesel for several years. Industry experts had told him biodiesel was an excellent substitute for pure diesel. Cost and availability had been the primary roadblocks to using biodiesel at the Basin. According to Lucas, "Last week I learned Mallete Oil in Leadville would be carrying biodiesel at a slightly higher price than petrodiesel. We felt this was the time to make the jump to biodiesel. Our studies indicate, we can eliminate 77,000 pounds of particulate matter from the atmosphere each year by using biodiesel."

"The Pollution Prevention Program with the state has helped guide us to greener and more sustainable environmental practices. Using biodiesel is one of many steps in creating a better company for our guests, our employees, and the community," said Alan Henceroth, Director of Mountain Operations.