



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Alabama State Port Authority Moves to Biodiesel**

**Mobile, Ala. – April 25, 2007 (10:00 a.m. CDT.)** The Alabama State Port Authority is moving forward to implement a biodiesel program seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the public seaport terminals.

James K. Lyons, director & CEO for the Authority, announced the new program yesterday at the Authority's monthly Board of Directors meeting held in Mobile. "The project stems from nearly a year of staff research, including a three month test program that concluded in early April. All of the port's compression ignition equipment will move from a petroleum diesel fuel to a B-20 blend of biodiesel to reduce our overall emissions within the port." B-20 fuel is a 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel blend. The biodiesel component is 100% soybean based.

The Port Authority's equipment that services over 1100 acres of cargo terminals will immediately switch to biodiesel. The nearly 125 pieces of equipment included in the program are all eight of the Port's Terminal Railway locomotive engines, three cranes and four reach stackers at the Pier 2 container yard, and over 100 compression ignition vehicles and equipment items. The Authority's remaining five bulk material cranes are powered by electricity.

The pilot test program was conducted during the first quarter of this calendar year and involved both the Authority's railroad locomotives and its container yard reach stackers. Joseph Threadcraft, vice president of Technical Services, oversaw the test program. "We selected equipment that gets heavy, daily use to fully evaluate how biodiesel fueled equipment performs in a variety of operating conditions and temperature ranges. Overall, the equipment performed as well as petroleum diesel fueled equipment, but with better results."

The port's railroad and container yard operators noted during the trial program that equipment emitted cleaner exhaust, less diesel smell and smoke, and showed an increase in throttle response. Robbie Kollin, manager of the Authority's central garage, observed that the Authority's fleet of smaller to mid-size equipment "experienced significant reduction in gallon per hour usage. Overall, that meant less cost would be spent on fuel."

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Another benefit to the use of biodiesel is there is little to no impact to existing facilities. Kollin noted, "biodiesel can be stored in our existing fuel storage tanks and requires no special handling or dispensing." The product is also biodegradable and can be used in any of the port's diesel engines without modifying parts or adversely impacting warranties associated with most major manufacturers.

Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have fully completed the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. The use of biodiesel in conventional diesel engines results in substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter and emissions of sulfur oxides and sulfates are virtually eliminated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture tests concluded biodiesel reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 16%. Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global warming. The use of B-20 biodiesel instead of petroleum diesel also reduces both carbon monoxide emissions and sulfates by 20%, as well as reduces the release of particulate matter by 22%.

Alabama State Port Authority, headquartered in Mobile, Alabama, owns and operates the State of Alabama's deepwater port facilities in Mobile, Alabama. The Authority directly handled more than 25 million tons of cargo and posted over \$89 million in revenues last year. Learn more at [www.asdd.com](http://www.asdd.com).

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