Mid Level Ethanol Blends
E85 Fuels – Issues and Solutions
Presentation Outline

✓ What are Mid Level Ethanol Blends & What is the Issue?
✓ Are Blender Pumps Allowed at Retail in Tennessee?
✓ Work at ASTM International Committee D02
✓ Is there a Demand in Tennessee?
What are Mid Level Ethanol Blends?

Essentially, Mid Level Fuel Blends are blends of gasoline and ethanol that are > 10% by volume and < 70% by volume (as of today) for use in Flex Fuel Vehicles.

Issues:

- Technically, ASTM D4814 covers fuels up to E49 based on the current scope.
- Practically, you could not blend a high level fuel that would meet the spec.
- TN Law requires fuels conveyed for consumption in Tennessee to meet standards established by ASTM International.
  - ASTM has not addressed Mid Level Blends
Are Blender Pumps Currently Allowed in TN?

No. Currently a request for blender pump installation would not be approved for use at a retail site.

We have not received a formal request to approve a blender pump installation at this time.

However, fleets, card-lock dispensing systems, ..., would be evaluated upon the request of a potential seller – those systems could be approved.

Our position on blender pumps at public retail facilities could change in the future based on ASTM International activities.
ASTM Activities on Mid Level Blends

- ASTM Committee D02, Subcommittee A has formed a Task Force on Mid Level Ethanol Blends.

- The first step is to develop a “Standard Practice” for selling Mid Level Ethanol Blends.
  - OEM’s of FFV’s generally accept fuel blends between E0 and E85, knowing that switch fueling is common.

- A Standard Practice differs from a Standard Specification: A Standard Practice is an accepted procedure for the performance of one or more operations or functions.

- Upon the development of a Standard Practice, TN may be able to adopt as rule and open door to Mid Level Blends.
A Standard Practice could include such things as:

- Referencing other standard specifications.
- The products that must be stored and blended – e.g. store and blend ASTM D5798 (E85) and ASTM D4814 (gasoline) for blending to EXX blends.
- The range of ethanol that would be allowed for an EXX blend.
- Blending procedures…
Demand for Mid Level Blends in TN?

Discussion from Group!