

identified only a single instance where it seems likely that the adoption of this proposal would result in entities in the distribution system choosing to add new tankage due to new product segregation. Bulk plants in areas of the country where heating oil is expected to remain in the market will have to decide whether to add tankage to distribute both heating oil and 500 ppm NRLM fuel. In all other cases we anticipate segments of the distribution system will choose to avoid any fuel segregation costs by limiting the range of sulfur grades they choose to carry, just as they do today. Regardless, however, the costs and impacts of these choices are small. We request comment on this assessment. A more detailed explanation of this assessment can be found in Chapter 5.6 of the draft RIA.

G. What Are the Potential Impacts of the 15 ppm Sulfur Diesel Program on Lubricity and Other Fuel Properties?

1. What Is Lubricity and Why Might it Be a Concern?

Engine manufacturers and owner/operators depend on diesel fuel lubricity properties to lubricate and protect moving parts within fuel pumps and injection systems for reliable performance. Unit injector systems and in-line pumps, commonly used in diesel engines, are actuated by cams lubricated with crankcase oil, and have minimal sensitivity to fuel lubricity. However, rotary and distributor type pumps, commonly used in light and medium-duty diesel engines, are completely fuel lubricated, resulting in high sensitivity to fuel lubricity. The types of fuel pumps and injection systems used in nonroad diesel engines are the same as those used in highway diesel vehicles. Consequently, nonroad and highway diesel engines share the same need for adequate fuel lubricity to maintain fuel pump and injection system durability.

Diesel fuel lubricity concerns were first highlighted for private and commercial vehicles during the initial implementation of the Federal 500 ppm sulfur highway diesel program and the state of California's diesel program. The Department of Defense (DoD) also has a longstanding concern regarding the lubricity of distillate fuels used in its equipment as evidenced by the implementation of its own fuel lubricity improver performance specification in 1989.²⁶³ The diesel fuel requirements in the state of California differed from the federal requirements by substantially

restricting the content of diesel fuel requires more severe hydrotreating than reducing the sulfur content to meet a 500 ppm standard.²⁶⁴ Consequently, concerns regarding diesel fuel lubricity have primarily been associated with California diesel fuel and some California refiners treat their diesel fuel with a lubricity additive as needed. Outside of California, hydrotreating to meet the current 500 ppm sulfur specification does not typically result in a substantial reduction of lubricity. Diesel fuels outside of California seldom require the use of a lubricity additive. Therefore, we anticipate only a marginal increase in the use of lubricity additives in NRLM diesel fuel meeting the proposed 500 ppm sulfur standard for 2007.²⁶⁵ This proposal would require diesel fuel used in nonroad engines to meet a 15 ppm sulfur standard in 2010. Based on the following discussion, we believe that the increase in the use of lubricity additives in 15 ppm nonroad diesel fuel would be the same as that estimated for 15 ppm highway diesel fuel.

The state of California currently requires the same standards for diesel fuel used in nonroad equipment as in highway equipment. Outside of California, highway diesel fuel is often used in nonroad equipment when logistical constraints or market influences in the fuel distribution system limit the availability of high sulfur fuel. Thus, for nearly a decade nonroad equipment has been using federal 500 ppm sulfur diesel fuel and California diesel fuel, some of which may have been treated with lubricity additives. During this time, there has been no indication that the level of diesel lubricity needed for fuel used in nonroad engines differs substantially from the level needed for fuel used in highway diesel engines.

Blending small amounts of lubricity-enhancing additives increases the lubricity of poor-lubricity fuels to acceptable levels. These additives are available in today's market, are effective, and are in widespread use around the world. Among the available additives, biodiesel has been suggested as one potential means for increasing the lubricity of conventional diesel fuel. Indications are that low concentrations

of biodiesel would be sufficient to raise the lubricity to acceptable levels.

Considerable research remains to be performed to better understand which fuel components are most responsible for lubricity. Consequently, it is unclear whether and to what degree the proposed sulfur standards for non-highway diesel engine fuel will impact fuel lubricity. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the typical process used to remove sulfur from diesel fuel—hydrotreating—can impact lubricity depending on the severity of the treatment process and characteristics of the crude. We expect that hydrotreating will be the predominant process used to reduce the sulfur content of non-highway diesel engine fuel to meet the 500 ppm sulfur standard during the first step of the proposed program. The highway diesel program projected that hydrotreating would be the process most frequently used to meet the 15 ppm sulfur standard for highway diesel fuel. The 2010 implementation date for the proposed 15 ppm standard for nonroad diesel fuel would allow the use of new technologies to remove sulfur from fuel.²⁶⁶ These new technologies have less of a tendency to affect other fuel properties than does hydrotreating.

Based on our comparison of the blendstocks and processes used to manufacture non-highway diesel fuels, we believe that the potential decrease in the lubricity of these fuels from hydrotreating that might result from the proposed sulfur standards should be approximately the same as that experienced in desulfurizing highway diesel fuel.²⁶⁷ To provide a conservative, high cost estimate, we assumed that the potential impact on fuel lubricity from the use of the new desulfurization processes would be the same as that experienced when hydrotreating diesel fuel to meet a 15 ppm sulfur standard. We request comment on the potential impact of these new desulfurization technologies on lubricity (as well as other fuel properties) that might help us to improve our estimate of the potential impacts of this proposal on fuel properties other than sulfur. Given that the requirements for fuel lubricity in highway and non-highway engines are the same, and the potential decrease in lubricity from desulfurization of non-highway diesel engine would be no greater than that experienced in desulfurizing highway diesel fuel, we

²⁶³ DoD Performance Specification, Inhibitor, Corrosion/Lubricity Improver, Fuel Soluble, MIL-PRF-25017F, 10 November 1997, Superseding MIL-I-25017E, 15 June 1989.

²⁶⁴ Chevron Products Diesel Fuel Technical Review provides a discussion of the impacts on fuel lubricity of current diesel fuel compositional requirements in California versus the rest of the nation. <http://www.chevron.com/prodserv/fuels/bulletin/diesel/I2%5F7%5F2%5Ff.htm>.

²⁶⁵ The cost from the increased use of lubricity additives in 500 ppm NRLM diesel fuel in 2007 and in 15 ppm nonroad diesel fuel in 2010 is discussed in section V of today's preamble.

²⁶⁶ See section IV.F for a discussion of which desulfurization processes we expect will be used to meet the 15 ppm standard for nonroad diesel fuel.

²⁶⁷ See chapter 5 of the RIA for a discussion of the potential impacts on fuel lubricity of this proposal.