

Goodbye Sulfur, Hello Headaches?

Tank owners are all too familiar with the corrosion problems they're seeing in nearly every diesel storage and dispensing system – as described in our January 2013 newsletter, it's an "odd gunk" that began appearing shortly after the nation switched to "ultra-low-sulfur" diesel fuel in 2010.

Researchers have been trying to figure out what it is and why it's now so ubiquitous. Multiple articles have been written and presentations made at conferences. The predominant theory is that a common bacterium which produces acetic acid is "suddenly" flourishing in diesel tank systems – in sumps, the tank itself, piping, pumps, filters, etc. – and this bacterium is notorious for creating a crusty corrosion that gives maintenance personnel big headaches.

Many think this bacterium is flourishing because one of its natural enemies – sulfur – is no longer present in the fuel at levels sufficient to hamper its growth.

Now comes a new potential problem: The U.S. EPA – whose air pollution office mandated the reduction of sulfur in diesel fuel – recently published a rule requiring the near-elimination of sulfur in gasoline by January 1, 2017!

Will this cause or exacerbate corrosion and maintenance problems in gasoline storage/dispensing systems, as it seems to have done in diesel ones? No one seems to know.

Given the possibility that this impending change in the chemical composition of all gasoline sold in the country might increase the risk of leaks from hundreds of thousands of gasoline USTs, the PSTIF Trustees recently sent a letter to EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks and Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, asking them to initiate a dialogue with states, industry representatives, and others on this issue and suggesting that the EPA fund research on this question. (The letter can be accessed here: <http://snipurl.com/pstif050>.)

We think that, at the very least, tank owners/operators deserve to know what new headaches they may have as a result of EPA's rule – and deserve some advice on how to deal with this potential problem before it confronts them.

Stay tuned...



Homegrown Industry Leaders

We're proud of the Missourians who serve on various national committees and boards, including these folks who are currently serving on **PEI Committees:**

John Albert, Department of Agriculture;

Tracy Barth, MFA Oil Co.;

Steve Brandt, Mid-State Petroleum Equipment, Inc.;

Phil Farrell, Double Check Co., Inc.;

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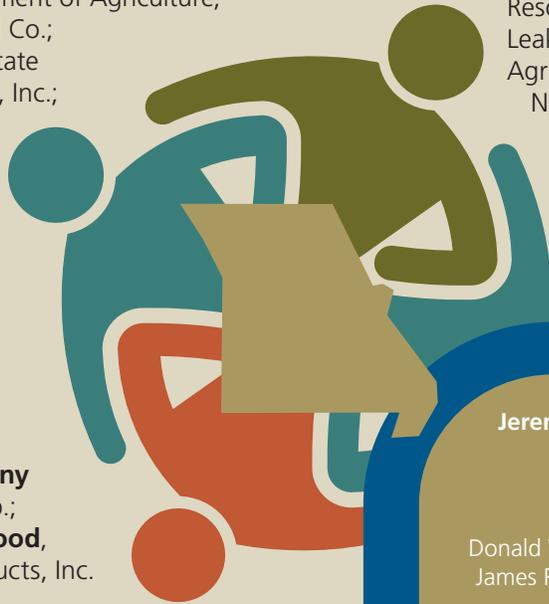
Bill Parker, Lincoln Lubrication Systems;

Mani Sundaram, Double Check Co., Inc.;

Grenny Sutcliffe, Husky Corp.;

and **Sonny Underwood**, Mid-South Steel Products, Inc.

(Also **Brian Wiegert**, Rounds & Associates' inspection manager for Missouri, even though he lives in Iowa!)



Kudos also to **Heather Peters**, Department of Natural Resources, who serves on the National Work Group for Leak Detection Evaluations; **Ron Hayes**, Department of Agriculture, who serves on several committees of the National Conference of Weights and Measures, (NCWM); and **John Albert**, who serves on the Laws and Regulations Committee of NCWM.

If you or someone you know is bringing "Missouri expertise" to a national forum, let us know and we'll include him or her in a future newsletter!

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