



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Air Quality

Michael F. Easley, Governor

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Division of Air Quality Position on Biodiesel

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel produced from agricultural feedstock that provides reductions in multiple pollutants. In an analysis of biodiesel impacts on exhaust emissions, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that biodiesel has the following potential reductions relative to conventional diesel:

	B20	B100
Carbon monoxide	10% reduction	50% reduction
Particulates	15% reduction	70% reduction
Hydrocarbons	10% reduction	40% reduction
Sulfates	20% reduction	100% reduction
Nitrogen oxide	2% increase	9% increase

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/consumer/fuels/altfuels/biodiesel.pdf>

When considering the combined benefit of all these reductions, the small increase in nitrogen oxides (NOx) should not overshadow the net environmental gain with biodiesel use in North Carolina. Biodiesel is a viable part of the overall effort to improve our air quality.

Sincerely,

B. Keith Overcash, PE