BIODIESEL TESTIMONIAL

CARMEUSE LIME MINE COMPANY

Mining, even by new standards, is a profession not void of risk. Miners must deal with low light, dicey subterranean environments and occasionally precarious conditions.

Fortunately, diesel exhaust is one less hazard facing miners today, thanks to new filtering equipment and, in some cases, the use of Biodiesel.

Kentucky is home to the second and fourth largest lime mine operations in the United States. Both are using B35 in equipment and vehicles, achieving significant air pollution reductions.

The Carmeuse Lime Mine Co. has worked with the Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition (KCFC) and the Kentucky Division of Energy to address new mining industry regulations for underground air quality. The regulations, established in 2001 by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), adopted new limits on human exposure to diesel particulate matter in underground mines. A pilot Biodiesel program, launched late last year, was conducted in two phases, using two different Biodiesel blends (B20 and B50) with No. 2 diesel.

Synergistically, Kentucky's own Griffin Industries, which manufactures ASTM-specified Biodiesel from recycled vegetable oil, and the Kentucky Soybean Association, were able to supply Biodiesel for the project.

The Carmeuse mine in Maysville, Ky., along with the company's Black River facility, carried out emissions testing. Alternating in two-week intervals between Biodiesel made from recycled vegetable oil (yellow grease) and Biodiesel made from virgin soybean oil, mine operators and MSHA officials carefully recorded results. Testing at the nearby Black River site in January 2003 revealed a 31-percent reduction in diesel particulate matter from the mine's exhaust airflow when a 35-percent Biodiesel blend was used.

Today, each mine has nearly 75 pieces of underground equipment running on B35.

"The Carmeuse Biodiesel program is a great example of the responsible and beneficial fuel choices industries can make," said Melissa Howell, long time director of the KCFC. "The tests set a precedent that applies to all underground mines, not just lime mines here in Kentucky."

The lime mine is a shining example of the vast Biodiesel network that is developing in Kentucky. But what's happening at the lime mines is only a fraction of what Kentucky is achieving with Biodiesel.

Due in large part to the tireless efforts of the KCFC, the commonwealth has been a trailblazer, funding Biodiesel programs and fostering market development state-wide.