



# OPEI REPORT

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OPEI MEMBERS

JUNE 2014

## Message from President & CEO Kris Kiser:

Summer has arrived and we are excited about new developments at OPEI. The level of support for our ethanol education campaign, 'Look Before You Pump' has grown steadily. I am pleased to announce that the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) has joined with us and will be distributing campaign materials. The NMMA joins retailers, dealers and manufacturers in working to educate American consumers and business owners to be more mindful of the changing fuels marketplace and select the right fuel for the right product. OPEI members – don't forget that you can request 400 free 'Look Before You Pump' ethanol education kits through the online portal on our [www.TinyURL.com/EthanolKits](http://www.TinyURL.com/EthanolKits) website (if you have not already done so). The OPEI Annual Meeting is this month in Palm Beach, Florida. I'm really looking forward to hearing Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, former U.S. trade representative who is known as the architect & lead negotiator of the China WTO agreement. There's also Peter Sheahan, acclaimed author, speaker & business trends expert, Dr. Chad Moutray, chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers and Chris Grundler, director of EPA's Office of Transportation & Air Quality.

## MARKET STATISTICS

- On April 9, the OPEI Board adopted reforms to the OPEI market statistics program, most notably requesting the creation of product specific subcommittees to govern data collection and dissemination.
- The Market Statistics Committee's Annual Meeting is planned for September 9-10 in Alexandria, VA. The agenda will include the implementation of governance reforms, electric product statistics, and development of a global data program.

## FEDERAL REGULATIONS

- On May 9, OPEI filed comments on the U.S. Office of Management & Budget's proposed revision of its guidance document Circular A-119, which prescribes government-wide policy on federal agency use of and participation in the development of voluntary consensus standards. Generally, the OPEI comments are supportive of the document as it supports federal policy which shows a preference for private sector leadership of standards development, with government playing a secondary role.

## STATE ISSUES

- California has begun consideration of proposed revisions to Proposition 65, a consumer "right to know" measure which obligates all business entities to label products which are known to contain a listed substance of concern. Despite Governor Brown's stated intent to reduce the burdens on business through the proposed changes, most business groups agree that they will have the opposite effect.

## LEGISLATION

- Trade proponents are hopeful that Congress may still vote on Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation this year, although not likely before the mid-term elections. Most export industries are lobbying for immediate consideration of TPA as a procedural prerequisite to successfully finalizing both the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (T-TIP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

## CPSC

- On April 28, OPEI filed comments to the CPSC on its NPRM to modify the rules for public disclosure of information protected by Section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA).
- The CPSC recently announced new obligations for Voluntary Corrective Action Plans relating to product recalls.

## TURF

- Organizations impacted by limitations applied to managed landscapes through codes and standards have officially joined with OPEI, representing their interests under the name - Greenscape Alliance.
- OPEI submitted comments on proposed changes to ASHRAE 189.1 Green Building Code which proposes further restrictions on the use of turfgrass in the landscape.

## INTERNATIONAL

- A U.S. delegation of OPEI member representatives traveled to Milan, Italy on May 22-23 to attend meetings of ISO TC 23 SC 13, which sets all global product standards for ground supported products. The U.S. is advocating for the active participation of additional non-European states in the committee to assure the standards are relevant and applicable in all global markets.
- The US TAG to TC23/SC17 met May 28th to review brushcutter and chainsaw standard revisions, chain brake performance DIS, saw chain oil lubricity NWIP & brush cutter and chain saw Systematic Reviews. The TC23/SC17 committee will meet in Japan in Oct 2014.

## UTILITY VEHICLES

- OPEI and CPSC were among the group of canvasees invited to provide comment on the proposed ROHVA 1-201X revision. It is not yet clear if the CPSC continues to pursue a rule making for ROV's and UTV's.
- At the confirmation hearing for CPSC Commissioner Nominees Elliot Kaye and Joe Mohorovic, the Senate Commerce Committee raised questions about ROVs/UTVs. Senators McCaskill (D-MO), Ayotte (R-NH), and Klobuchar (D-MN) said they would like to see action on the proposed standards, with McCaskill adding that they have been in the works since October 2009 and that manufacturers need certainty.

## EPA/FUELS/WORLDWIDE ENGINE EMISSIONS

- U.S. EPA & ARB – OPEI Engine & Fuels and Handheld Products Committees continue discussions with EPA and ARB staff regarding certification fuel harmonization beyond 2019.
- OPEI will attend the D02 - Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants Committee meeting June 23-24 in Indianapolis with focus on E85 impact on vehicles, E15 drivability index and revision of the D4814 specification to accommodate E15.
- Environment Canada – Publication of EC's draft amendment for Off-Road Small Spark-Ignition Engines Emissions Regulations continues to be delayed.
- EU – European Commission draft revision of 97/68/EC shows alignment with current EPA Phase 3 exhaust gas limits starting in 2019/2020.
- China – China will kick-off Stage III exhaust gas emissions work this year. The target implementation is 2016.
- Australia – While the Standing Council on Environment and Water has been abolished, an ad hoc meeting of the Commonwealth and State/Territory Environment Ministers to discuss, inter alia, the National Clean Air Agreement (NCAA) took place on April 29th. Ministers requested finalization of a Decision Regulation Impact Statement on potential emission control options for several sectors, including non-road engines, by September 2014. The current direction for non-road engines focuses on US EPA emissions control strategies.

## ANSI STANDARDS

- ANSI B175 Handheld Products Safety Standards Committees met at OPEI offices May 13-15. The committees are scheduled to meet again the week of September 15.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.1-2012/A1-2014 Engine-Powered Handheld Chain Saws –Safety and Environment Requirements Amendment 1 canvass ballot closed April 1. Following comment review, the BSR-9 for process approval was submitted to ANSI on June 2nd. Planned publication in summer 2014.
- ANSI B71.3-201x, Snow Throwers – Safety Specifications was circulated for a 2nd canvass ballot on May 16, replies are due to OPEI by June 30. The new standard is a revision of the 2005 edition standard.

## UPCOMING OPEI MEETINGS

- June 16-17, Summer OPEI Board of Directors Meeting, Palm Beach, FL
- June 17-19, OPEI Annual Meeting, Palm Beach, FL
- June 26, B71.9 MOHUV/UTV Committee, Webinar
- July 8-9, B71.1 and B71.4 Committees, Milwaukee, WI
- August 5, B71.10 Fuel Systems Committee, Webinar
- August 13, Forecast Subcommittee, Alexandria, VA
- September 9-10, Market Statistics Committee, Alexandria, VA
- September 15, Engine and Fuels Committee, Alexandria, VA
- September 15, Hand Held Products Committee, Alexandria, VA
- September 16-18, Hand Held ANSI Standards Committees, Alexandria, VA
- October 8, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee, Alexandria, VA