



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE

OUTDOOR POWER REPORT



Quarterly Report | June 2015



MESSAGE FROM KRIS KISER, OPEI PRESIDENT:

Our “Look Before You Pump” effort, OPEI’s ethanol education and consumer protection campaign, is becoming ever more important. Recently the Environmental Protection Agency announced Renewable Fuel Standard volume requirements and the U.S. Department of Agriculture is making a significant infrastructure investment in blender pumps. We continue to work hard to represent our members on the regulatory and policymaking fronts.

The TurfMutt environmental education and stewardship program for children in grades K-5 is having a banner year. We just announced the two grand prize winners of our “Be a Backyard Superhero” contest, Liam Ellis in Pennsylvania and Jordan Evans in Texas. As part of the contest, we reviewed hundreds of essays and illustrations by children showing how they are taking care of green spaces and illustrations showing TurfMutt. Nurturing a love of the outdoors at an early age means that when these children become adults, they will take care of the green spaces they live in. Get more information at www.TurfMutt.com.

The OPEI Annual meeting is this month in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I am looking forward to hearing insights from economist, Alan Beaulieu, Generational Divide Expert, Jason Dorsey and Astronaut and author Mike Mullane.

Now is the time to [make your reservations](#) for booth space at GIE+EXPO, our industry’s largest trade show. The event is loaded with networking, marketing, and training opportunities. All indicators are that GIE+EXPO will break more records this year and you won’t want to miss this opportunity.

MARKET STATISTICS

- After a year of reorganization through the creation of product subcommittees and the updating of the program governance procedures, the OPEI Market Statistics Program and its committee (MSC) is anticipating growth in both member participation and product coverage for the upcoming MY 2016.
- Based on the positive member feedback from this past spring’s inaugural “Member Market Statistics Forum”, OPEI plans to convene a similar program open to all members during the spring of 2016.

FEDERAL REGULATION

- On May 29, EPA announced the long overdue renewable fuel volumes required in gasoline for 2014, 2015, and 2016, as per the Federal Renewable Fuel Standard. Agreed by most as a compromise, the proposal keeps levels below that mandated by law, but close to the “blend wall”, the point at which the market cannot safely or legally absorb the fuels.
- Also on May 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced its intent to release \$100 million to fund domestic infrastructure upgrades (blender pumps and tanks) to facilitate the broader sale of E15 and E85. The program combines the Administration’s goals of promoting renewable fuels and assisting U.S. farmers.

CONGRESS

- On May 22, the U.S. Senate passed Trade Promotion Authority legislation intended to define clear guidelines for Congressional oversight and approval of pending trade deals. The legislation is likely to face a vote in the House as early as the week of June 8.
- On June 3, the House Energy & Commerce Committee approved by a vote of 47-0 legislation which would reform the 30-year old Toxic Substances Control Act, the law governing the use of chemicals in the manufacture of products. A similar bill is awaiting a vote by the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee.
- The U.S. ports on the west coast, and the businesses and everyday Americans they serve, continue to recover from the closures and delays brought on by this winter’s prolonged work stoppage. On Capitol Hill, Senator Cory Gardner (D-CO) is proposing legislation which would exempt port operations from some disruptions due to organized labor disputes.
- The Federal government is again processing seasonal worker visas (H-2B) after a court-triggered stoppage earlier this spring. Nonetheless, the business community continues to urge Congress to provide returning worker exemptions to bolster available worker visas, as well as advocating for comprehensive reform of the law.

STATE/LOCAL ISSUES

- On April 8, OPEI joined the California Chamber of Commerce in comments critical of the state's proposed overhaul of Proposition 65, the 30-year old regulation which requires labelling of products and services for their chemical content. Contrary to the state's intent, changes to require more prescriptive warnings will only increase litigation and costs to businesses, with no added public health benefits.
- Efforts by the Chicago City Council to mandate the sale of E15 at city filling stations has been delayed due largely to opposition from Mayor Emanuel. Alderman are reportedly searching for compromise language to find a path forward with the Mayor's support.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- On May 20, the EU Parliament voted to proceed with a mandatory rule to require the reporting of sourcing of "conflict minerals" (gold, tin, tantalum, tungsten), similar to the existing U.S. (SEC) regulation. Notably, the proposed rule explicitly obligates all downstream users and importers to comply.

ANSI STANDARDS

- OPEI is collecting canvass volunteers to review upcoming revised ANSI standards for tillers, log splitters, chipper/shredders and utility vehicles. Work is progressing on a North America standard for Robotic Electric Lawnmowers.

UTV/ANSI B71.9 COMMITTEE

- The B71.9 Committee met with stakeholders, including CPSC on May 19 in Atlanta, GA to discuss the next revision to the B71.9-2012 standard. The Committee presented several changes it was considering, including revisions to the occupant protection system and vehicle stability requirements and the addition of a vehicle handling requirement.
- The Committee wrapped up "Round Robin" testing of several vehicles, looking at the repeatability and reproducibility of measured lateral acceleration. OPEI found that measured lateral acceleration is difficult to reproduce and has concluded that it is not an appropriate pass/fail metric for UTV vehicle safety standards.
- OPEI final comments to the CPSC ROV NPRM are due June 19.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTS

- The OPEI Electric Products Committee continues engagement with the review and development of standards for electric products. Technical work on these standards occurs within the framework of the IEC standards committees. OPEI staff is fully engaged on the IEC committees on behalf of OPEI members.
- The next meetings of the IEC TC 116 WG 10 Committee are being held the week of July 13 and the week of November 2. Key items on the agenda include standards for Chainsaws, Lawn Trimmers and Lawn Edge Trimmers, Brush-Cutters and Grass-Trimmers, Robotic Lawnmowers, and Pedestrian Controlled Walk-Behind Lawnmowers.

ARB EVAPORATIVE EMISSIONS VALIDATION STUDY

- ARB presented the findings from its recent SSIE EVAP emissions validation study. ARB identified several failures during testing. ARB is interested in discussing potential solutions to improve compliance.

ASTM FUEL GASOLINE & OXYGENATED FUELS STANDARD

- OPEI provided negative comments on April's ballot outlining changes in the Scope to include up-to E15. OPEI commented that scope must include language regarding known limitations of the standard, including use of E15 for outdoor power equipment. The subcommittee is expected to review and address negative comments at the June 22-23 D02 and A00 committee meetings.



MEXICO HANDHELD SAFETY STANDARDS TASK GROUP

- Mexico has published draft chain saw, hedge trimmer, grass trimmer and brush cutter, and backpack sprayer standards for public comment. The public comment period closes June 15.
- Mexico is initiating the next step in the standard development process, outlining the requirements for the NOM (mandatory), which will make the NMX (voluntary) standards a requirement. OPEI will continue working with Normas (Direccion General de Normas) to develop the NOM.

LEAF BLOWER CODES/BANS TASK GROUP

- The task group continues work on materials aimed at providing facts to address blower misconceptions regarding noise, emissions and debris. The informative package is scheduled to be finished later this year.

US TAG TO ISO TC23/SC17

- The TAG abstained from a New Work Item Proposal on ISO 11681-2 looking to add additional warning to top-handled saws. The TAG noted that the proposal is market specific, driven by European authorities and the Machinery Directive, and does not align with the current B175.1 standard.
- The TAG voted to reaffirm ISO 7918-1995, Forestry machinery – Portable brush-cutters and grass-trimmers – Cutting attachment guard dimensions.
- The next meeting of the TC23/SC17 Committee is scheduled for October 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- June 23-25, 2015, OPEI Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM
- June 25, 2015, OPEI Board Meeting, Santa Fe, NM
- July 9-17, 2015, IEC TC 116 WG 7 and 10 for electric product standards, Chicago, IL
- August 4-6, 2015, Robotic Electric Lawnmower Committee, Alexandria, VA
- August 12, 2015, MSC Forecast Committee, Alexandria, VA
- October 5-9, 2015, ISO TC 23 SC 13, Minneapolis, MN
- October 13, 2015, Ground Supported Products Committee Meetings, Alexandria, VA
- October 14, 2015, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee Meeting, Alexandria, VA
- October 21, 2015, OPEI Board Meeting, Louisville, KY
- October 21-23, GIE+EXPO, Louisville, KY
- October 22, 2015, UTV B71.9 Committee Meeting, Louisville, KY
- October 26-30, ISO TC 23 SC 17, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- October 29-November 6, 2015, IEC TC 116 WG 7 and 10 for electric product standards, London, England

INDUSTRY INFORMATION SERVICES TO CHANGE

- The OPEI SmartBrief will terminate July 31. A new industry subscription (MultiBrief) will begin Aug. 3.

GIE+EXPO

THE GREEN INDUSTRY & EQUIPMENT EXPO



Attendee Exhibitor Media

Dealer Day, October 21, 2015 | All Attendees - October 22-23, 2015 | Ky. Expo Center



Dealer Day at GIE+EXPO

You spoke and Show Management listened. Dealers/retailers/distributors and many exhibitors have requested exclusive time on the exhibit floor to...
[More...](#)



REGISTER NOW



Home

GIE+EXPO Videos

Events and Features

Educational Sessions

Travel & Accommodations

Industry Links

International Information

The LARGEST Show for Your Industry — GIE+EXPO 2015

Two tradeshows – GIE+EXPO and Hardscape North America – co-located in one central location, provide your No. 1 opportunity to see what your industry is buzzing about. The **19 acre Outdoor Demonstration Area**, within easy walking distance of the indoor exhibits, and the **New Products Showcase** make these prestigious shows an exceptionally efficient, productive marketplace.

See outdoor power equipment, along with products for landscapes, gardens, outdoor leisure, hardscapes and light construction.

[Check out GIE+EXPO's Feature Sponsors.](#)

[Click here](#) to see a snapshot of the 2014 show.

[Click here](#) to reserve space today.

Future Show Dates

October 19-21, 2016 — October 18-20, 2017 — October 17-19, 2018

Find us on Facebook



You and 3,200 others like GIE+EXPO.

