



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE

Equipment, Engines & UTV's

The Association of Small Engine
Utility Vehicle and Outdoor Power
Equipment Manufactures and Supplier

GETTING THE JOB DONE

MESSAGE FROM KRIS KISER, OPEI PRESIDENT:

Quarterly Report | June 2016



There's some good news in California – and it's not just that water levels are rising. Legislation, developed by OPEI (AB 2617) has passed the California State Assembly without any opposition. This legislation charges the State Energy Commission to analyze and issue a report on the costs/benefits of incentives used for water efficiency measures, such as turfgrass removal and replacement, investments in "grey water" infrastructure to supply water to outdoor landscapes, and rebates for high-efficiency consumer appliances and landscape irrigation systems. The legislation moves now to the California State Senate.

The TurfMutt environmental education and stewardship program has become a very effective ambassador for our "living landscapes" message. We recently awarded \$5,000 grants to two schools with winners in the TurfMutt "Be a Backyard Superhero" contest. One of the winning entries was our first ever rap song.

Plans for next year are already in motion. The TurfMutt program will appear on a second season of the Emmy Award winning "Lucky Dog" show on CBS. We are continuing to expand our relationship with children's media publisher, Scholastic, with plans for a new digital storybook and activities. TurfMutt will also take part in the Fido Friendly Route 66 Pet Adoption Tour in September with Brandon McMillan, host of "Lucky Dog."

We continue to work to remind consumers to use only E10 or less fuel in outdoor power equipment through our "Look Before You Pump" campaign. The ethanol education portal was recently updated with a new infographic, blog posts and other materials. You can download materials for free and use them in your messaging.

STANDARDS

- On May 3rd, OPEI opened balloting on a proposed revision of the 2012 edition of ANSI/OPEI B71.1 – American National Standard for Consumer Turf Care Equipment – Pedestrian-Controlled Mowers and Ride-On Mowers – Safety Specifications. Balloting is set to close on June 20th.
- In July, OPEI will open balloting on a proposed revision of the 2012 edition of ANSI/OPEI B71.4 – American National Standard for Commercial Turf Care Equipment – Safety Specifications.
- On June 8th, OPEI opened balloting on a proposed new standard titled ANSI/OPEI B71.7 – American National Standard for Powered Consumer Ram-Type Log Splitters – Safety Specifications. Balloting is set to close on July 25th.
- OPEI continues to require canvass participants to review the upcoming proposal to revise the 2000 edition of ANSI/OPEI B71.6 – American National Standard for Powered Shredder/Grinders and Shredder/Baggers – Safety Requirements. In particular, OPEI is in need of non-manufacturing interests, representing the views of consumers, government, retail/distribution, and testing organizations.

MARKET STATISTICS

- In May, OPEI began publication of summary level data to the general membership for electric/battery powered products. These include walk-behind mowers, snow throwers, chainsaws, blowers, trimmers, and hedge trimmers.
- At this month's Annual Meeting, OPEI will introduce a new app for use by all members in accessing the summary market statistics published monthly by the association. This new service will provide access to the data using an interactive report built in Microsoft PowerBI, as an alternative to the static reports provided currently.

CONGRESS

- On May 24th and June 7th respectively, the House and Senate overwhelmingly voted to approve landmark reform legislation of the 40-year old Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which provides EPA authority to regulate chemicals in commerce. OPEI in coordination with a broad coalition of U.S. manufacturing interests is supportive of the legislation, and President Obama is expected to sign it into law the week of June 20th.
- On May 10th, HR 5180 - The Food and Fuel Consumer Protection Act was introduced in the U.S. House. The primary intent of the bill is to cap the blending of ethanol into gasoline, as required by the Renewable Fuel Standard, at 9.7%.

- Washington-based trade groups are currently lobbying Congress to recommend that EPA bolster their consumer education efforts to mitigate engine damage by mis-fueling with non-approved mid-level ethanol blends.
- Industries dependent on the H-2B visa program as a source of seasonal employees are again lobbying for a returning worker exemption to be included in the FY 2017 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. The provision is crucial as it greatly increases the overall number of seasonal employees granted legal entry each year.

REGULATION

- In early June, OPEI joined a coalition of trade groups in submitting comments to the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommending that a number of misguided rulemakings be cancelled. The comments were submitted in advance of the agency's June 15th hearing on its FY 2017 agenda priorities.
- On May 18th, EPA announced rulemaking to propose the 2017 Renewable Volume Obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard. While the targets are short of those required under law, they nonetheless assure that virtually all gasoline sold in 2017 will contain more than 10% ethanol.

STATES

- On May 25th, Missouri lawmakers sent legislation to Governor Nixon for his signature, providing liability protection to fuel retailers and engine manufacturers in the event that consumers mis-fuel their engine powered products with non-approved fuels.
- On June 6, OPEI joined a broad manufacturing coalition in submitting comments on what is expected to be California's final proposal to revise the Proposition 65 regulation, which requires that products/services carry warnings for state listed chemicals of concern. The letter is generally critical of the proposed revisions, as they only further complicate many of the ambiguities in the existing regulation.

MEMBERSHIP

- In May, OPEI welcomed Wright Manufacturing, Inc. as its newest member. The Frederick, Maryland-based company manufactures commercial lawn mowers.

LEGAL

- On May 19th, OPEI filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting a member petition requesting that the court review the 2013 New Hampshire law which now regulates industry dealer contracts consistent with those for the automotive industry. A decision is expected from the court in July.

ELECTRICS

- OPEI staff will be participating in the IEC TC 116 WG 7 and WG 10 committees meet in Frankfurt, Germany July 14 – 22. The electric product standards under review include battery chargers, high voltage proposals, electric hedge trimmers, electric robotic lawnmowers and electric walk-behind lawnmowers.

UTILITY VEHICLES

- ANSI/OPEI B71.9 Multipurpose Off-Highway Utility Vehicles Standard revision was approved by ANSI on May 13 with Publication expected by the end of June.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- June 21-23, 2016 – Annual Meeting- Asheville, NC
- June 23, 2016 – Summer Board of Directors Meeting – Asheville, NC
- August 17, 2016 - Market Statistics Forecast Committee Meeting – Alexandria, VA
- September 12-16, 2016 – ISO TC 23 SC 13 & SC 17 – Peterborough, United Kingdom
- October 4-6, 2016 – Market Statistics Committee/Forum Meeting – Alexandria, VA
- October 12, 2016 – Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee – Alexandria, VA
- October 18-19, 2016 – OPEI Fall Board of Directors Meeting – Louisville, KY
- October 19-21, 2016 – GIE + EXPO Tradeshow – Louisville, KY
- October 24-27, 2016 - Engine & Fuels, Handheld, B175 Standards Committee Meetings – Alexandria, VA

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