

FINAL

PHASE 2 RFG PERFORMANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 17, 1995

I. Introduction

The performance subcommittee discussed the following key issues regarding the Phase 2 Reformulated Gasoline performance and compatibility testing program:

- On-Road Fleet Composition and Size
- Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Test Program
- Distribution and Inspection of Test Fuel
- Conduct of the Performance and Compatibility Program
- New Vehicle Warranties

The minutes from the November 15, 1994 meeting were approved with no significant changes. However, the cover sheet for Chevron's presentation on API fuel tank flammability implied that the presentation was based on work done by Chevron instead of API. Copies of presentations given at the meeting are enclosed with this summary.

II. On-Road Fleet Composition and Size

A table of the on-road fleet composition and size is attached as part of the draft Memorandum of Understanding. There are 1035 test vehicles and 817 control vehicles selected at this time; however, no heavy duty vehicles are currently represented. ARB staff are continuing to work with Caltrans to find a suitable selection of heavy duty vehicles and are likely to test those vehicles separately from the main on-road test program.

Contact: Nelson Chan (916) 327-1510

III. Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Test Program

Tecumseh and Briggs and Stratton have completed testing. Tecumseh completed bench testing in November 1994 and

published their findings. They tested 21 engines for their full expected life, and encountered no performance or durability problems. The findings of the Tecumseh testing are outlined in the attached Off-Road Performance Test Programs presentation. At the meeting, someone requested a copy of the details from the Tecumseh bench testing; they are attached as well. Briggs and Stratton testing is also complete and they expect to publish their findings soon.

Additional utility lawn and garden testing is to be done by U.C. Davis and the Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association (PPEMA). Three marine engine testing programs are to be conducted by Oronite and Outboard Marine Corporation in the San Francisco Bay; Oronite and Mercury Marine in Disney World Florida; Mercury Marine in conjunction with commercial fisherman in Ventura Harbor. Two agricultural and industrial test programs will be conducted by U. C. Davis and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. In the snowmobile category, the International Snowmobile Industry Association will be testing rental snowmobiles in conjunction with Tahoe Winter Sports, and on-road motorcycles will be tested by the City of Sacramento as part of the on-road test program.

Contact: Kathleen Nolan (818) 350-6519

#### IV. Distribution and Inspection of Test Fuel

Test fuel will be distributed from Phillips Petroleum to California by rail. Test fuel distribution within the state will be handled by Texaco, and we expect shipping to begin on January 27, 1995. Fuel samples will be collected at various locations during fuel shipment, both before receiving fuel and after. A copy of the hand blend fuel specifications is attached and the test fuel properties of the initial shipment will be provided to subcommittee members at the next meeting.

Contact: Rich Vincent (916) 327-5977

#### V. Conduct of the Performance and Compatibility Program

The fleet test vehicles will be fully inspected prior to the beginning of the test program; thereafter, we will have monthly or bi-monthly visual inspections of fuel system

components. The data collection forms were discussed at the meeting and were finalized with some minor changes. In the case that there is a failure, there is a five step procedure outlined in the Compatibility and Performance Evaluation Program presentation to evaluate the situation. There will be two levels of component failure review, the first level will determine what the failure is and the second level will determine the actual cause of failure. Subcommittee members were asked to volunteer for the panel.

Contact: Paul Jacobs (916) 322-7061

#### VI. New Vehicle Warranties

General Motors and Chrysler issued letters stating that their warranties would be fully supported if any fuel related problems occurred in their vehicles. Ford representatives were asked if Ford would be doing the same. Prior to the meeting Ford had mailed such a letter to us, but we had not received the letter prior to the meeting. We will be including a copy of that letter with this summary.

Attachments

[CBG Program Advisory and Subcommittee Activities](#)