

March 13, 2020

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CORONAVIRUS SITUATIONAL UPDATE AND RESOURCES

PMAA is working closely with the U.S. Departments of Energy, Transportation, Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to mitigate any negative impact of the COVID19 coronavirus on fuel marketers. The talks are a continuation of PMAA's ongoing emergency preparedness initiative to establish and maintain coordination between marketers and emergency response officials during declarations of emergency to ensure adequate fuel supply is available to consumers. Specifically, PMAA is in discussions with the U.S. DOT regarding hours of service waivers for drivers. PMAA is concerned that a COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak will worsen the already acute shortage of qualified CDL drivers due to attrition from sickness and at home quarantine. PMAA is also meeting with emergency managers about guidance for heating fuel dealers and their drivers delivering fuel to residential customers within quarantined areas or to those who self-quarantined at home. The goal is to ensure that petroleum marketers and heating fuel dealers can operate in a coordinated and efficient fashion during a potential widespread COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak without being hampered by any emergency restrictions or limitations imposed by state and federal emergency managers. PMAA is also working with government officials to prepare for the possible layering of another disaster, such as a hurricane, on top of the current crisis.

PMAA encourages you to notify PMAA staff of any particular needs or concerns that you have so that we can communicate to the most efficient government employees to obtain the information or the help that you may need.

As you are aware, President Trump announced this week that at his direction the **Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer Small Businesses impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19) up to \$2 million in Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance (EIDL)**. Under the EIDL program the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Attached you will find a copy of [SBA's Press Release](#) along with an [SBA handout](#). Please do not hesitate to share the attachments with your distribution lists.

For updates and resources:

The FEMA National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC) is activated as part of the Interagency Crisis Action Task Force, supporting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Lead Federal Agency for our nation's response to COVID-19. Emergency Support Function #14 – Cross Sector Business & Infrastructure is also activated at the national level with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) coordinating. The NBEOC Operations Dashboard is active and being used to post incident updates: fema.connectsolutions.com/nbeoc

PMAA members may join the National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC) Cross Sector Coordination Call (or continue to be represented by your state and national Petroleum Marketers Associations) **each Tuesday/Thursday at 3:00 pm EST**. The Call-In Number is: 800-593-7177, and the PIN is: 7963614.

*New CDC # for Public:

800-CDC-INFO

Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2

www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

All CDC Coronavirus Information:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html

CDC Guidance for Businesses:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

Posters for Employees:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html

About Coronavirus:

www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses

Chamber Coronavirus Information:

www.uschamberfoundation.org/coronavirus

CDC State Cases:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

John Hopkins Global Cases Map:

gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html

OSHA Standards/COVID-19 is a Recordable Illness/Worker Responsibilities:

www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/

For Medical Supply Information:

www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19

Businesses Preparedness, Making a Disaster Plan, Making a Supply Kit:

www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/oda/resources/2803

CISA “Risk Management for COVID-19” to Help Executives Think Through Physical, Supply Chain, and Cybersecurity

CISA.gov/insights

SENATE ENERGY BILL STALLED

The bipartisan energy bill known as “The American Energy Innovation Act” is now in limbo over a controversial amendment sponsored by Sens. John Kennedy (R-LA) and Tom Carper (D-DE) that was intended to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbons over 15 years. There was also intense debate over whether to expand the current EV tax credit from 200,000 per manufacturer to 600,000 and extend the credit for fuel cell vehicles through December 31, 2024.

The bill represented a compilation of more than 50 bills advanced by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The legislation, sponsored by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Joe Manchin (D-WV), focused on energy innovation by boosting new and developing technologies including ways to make cars and trucks more fuel efficient and manufacturing processes less CO2 heavy. The bill contained provisions that would improve electric reliability and energy efficiency; promote the development of hydropower, geothermal, weatherization of homes, and methane hydrates; enhanced cyber security efforts; bolstered mineral security; and would repeal a range of obsolete authorities currently within the U.S. Code.

The bill could still be revived in the coming weeks or months. The bottom line is that even if the Senate passes an energy bill, the Democrat controlled House would likely amend it with their priorities making final passage nearly impossible to achieve.

EPA WON'T EXTEND MAY 2020 DEADLINE FOR RETAILERS TO SELL-OFF LESS EFFICIENT WOOD BURNING STOVES

In a final rulemaking this week, the EPA decided not to extend an upcoming deadline for retailers to sell off floor-stocks of soon-to-be noncompliant residential wood burning stoves. A final rule published in 2015 gave retailers until May 15, 2020 to sell off wood stove heaters that met an older, less stringent air emissions threshold known as “Step 1.” The Step 1 emission standards limit wood burning stoves to 4.5 grams of smoke per hour. After May 15, retailers may only sell stoves that meet more stringent Step 2 emission limit of 2.0 grams of smoke per hour.

Last fall, the EPA proposed to extend the deadline to 2022 after retailers complained that they would suffer significant economic harm if the agency stuck with the 2020 deadline. However, the EPA has determined the \$10 million dollars in benefits for retailers gained by a deadline extension outweighed the additional \$230 million dollars in health care costs resulting from increased emissions over the proposed two-year extension period. The agency determined that retailers provided insufficient justification for the deadline extension because the cleaner burning Step 2 stoves with enhanced emission technology have been available and sold to consumers for many years. The EPA said retailers had enough time to sell their Step 1 inventory. The final rule also removes new quality standards for wood pellet fuel although the prohibition of pellets containing garbage, lawn clippings, rubber and plastic remain in place.

FDA CREATES WEBPAGE PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON TOBACCO 21

Last week, the FDA unveiled a website that provides information regarding the new law that raised the federal age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21. The website includes a “Commonly Asked Questions” portion as well as other resources for tobacco retailers. Notably, the FDA announced that it is now conducting compliance checks with decoys under the age of 21. Before the new law was passed, the FDA was using decoys under the age of 18. Retailers should continue to abide by the law and not sell to anyone under the age of 21.

Click [here](https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/retail-sales-tobacco-products/tobacco-21) to view the website. (<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/retail-sales-tobacco-products/tobacco-21>)

TRUMP FLOATS PAYROLL TAX CUT IDEA IN THE WAKE OF CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Congress Looks to Quickly Pass Stimulus Package

In response to the coronavirus outbreak and its severe effect on the economy, President Trump took to Capitol Hill earlier this week to lobby Congress on a payroll tax cut that would last through the November elections in order to help small businesses. Trump also said that he was considering aid to workers who are affected by the virus and low-interest loans for small businesses that may be affected.

However, Democrats have come out in opposition to the idea of a payroll tax cut. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that he favors paid sick leave for workers and unemployment insurance for people out of work instead of a payroll tax cut. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) also expressed his opposition, saying that a payroll tax cut is not the best choice of action in this particular situation.

Congress is currently hashing out the details of a plan that would provide financial aid to Americans during the outbreak. Specifically, House Democrats are working on a bill that would provide paid sick leave for workers, unemployment insurance for those looking for jobs and spending increases for social programs. The package is expected to be voted on today. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced yesterday that the Senate is no longer going to recess next week and instead will be in Washington to work on a stimulus bill.

While the details of funding packages are being considered in each chamber, President Trump has announced that he may sign a declaration soon that would free up billions of dollars in funding in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

COURT GRANTS EPA MORE TIME TO APPEAL SMALL REFINERY EXEMPTION CASE

This week, the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals announced that it was granting the EPA an extra two weeks to appeal a recent ruling which said that the EPA had exceeded its authority and must reconsider the small refinery exemptions (SREs) that it had granted to three different refineries. News reports last week had indicated that the Trump Administration would challenge the ruling, but the Administration decided it needed a few more weeks to make a final decision.

In the ruling, the court said only refineries that had exemptions continuously since 2011 could apply for new ones. The Trump Administration’s announcement marked a reversal where top officials had planned to drastically scale back the number of SREs which would have negatively impacted refineries by increasing RIN prices. The issue is important to petroleum marketers because high RIN prices leads to an unlevel playing field in the motor fuels market.



February 16-18, 2021. The Mirage Las Vegas, Nevada.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21, 2020 – IPM&CSA PAC Golf Tournament – Ridgecrest GC – Nampa, ID

April 21-23, 2020 - Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy

May 7-8, 2020 – Nevada NPM&CSA – Big Dogs - Las Vegas, NV

June 2-3, 2020 – Montana MPMCSA – Convention – Fairmont Hot Springs Resort – Fairmont, MT

June 22-25, 2020 – Washington (WOMA) – Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

August 5-7, 2020 – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d’ Alene Resort – Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho

August 17-19, 2020 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort & Casino – Albuquerque, NM

September 9-10, 2020 – Utah (UPMRA) – Convention – Park City Marriott – Park City, Utah

September 15-17, 2020 - Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy

November 2, 2020 – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – Oahu Country Club – Honolulu, HI

February 16-18, 2021 – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, NV

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Petro Pete: *“A perfectionist walked into a bar...apparently, the bar wasn’t set high enough.”*

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