

William R. Wiley

EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

EMSL Boilers, Backup Generators Tapped for First-Ever Biofuel Use

A biofuel composed of pure soy mixed with diesel fuel has been introduced as an alternative fuel source to natural gas for the boilers and backup generators at the W.R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL). Use of the biofuel makes the scientific user facility the first and only U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility in the nation to target this type of fuel for use on a large scale.

The Biodiesel-10 fuel—or B-10, is a blend of 10% soy mixed with 90% diesel fuel to produce the alternative fuel.

Environmental benefits posed by use of the biofuel include the release of fewer amounts of sulfur dioxide and other carcinogens into the air. Use of the biodiesel is also a step towards meeting the provisions of Presidential Executive Order 13149, implemented in 2002 to help wean the United States from its dependence on foreign petroleum, and also supports DOE's commitment to reducing its total petroleum consumption by 20% by 2008.



A biofuel targeted for alternative use in EMSL's boilers and backup generators makes the user facility the first and only DOE facility in the nation to use such a fuel on a large scale.

Produced by a local petroleum vendor, the biofuel is stored in a 4,000-gallon storage tank outside of EMSL. A media event held on April 21 to coincide with Earth Day celebrated the use of the new biofuel, as well as the decision of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory—on whose campus EMSL resides—to use biofuel in place of gasoline to power the research laboratory's vehicle fleet.

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