

Biodiesel now available at DDSP

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Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa. (DDSP), became the first Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) host activity to start using biodiesel as an alternative to diesel fuel Nov. 1, 2006.

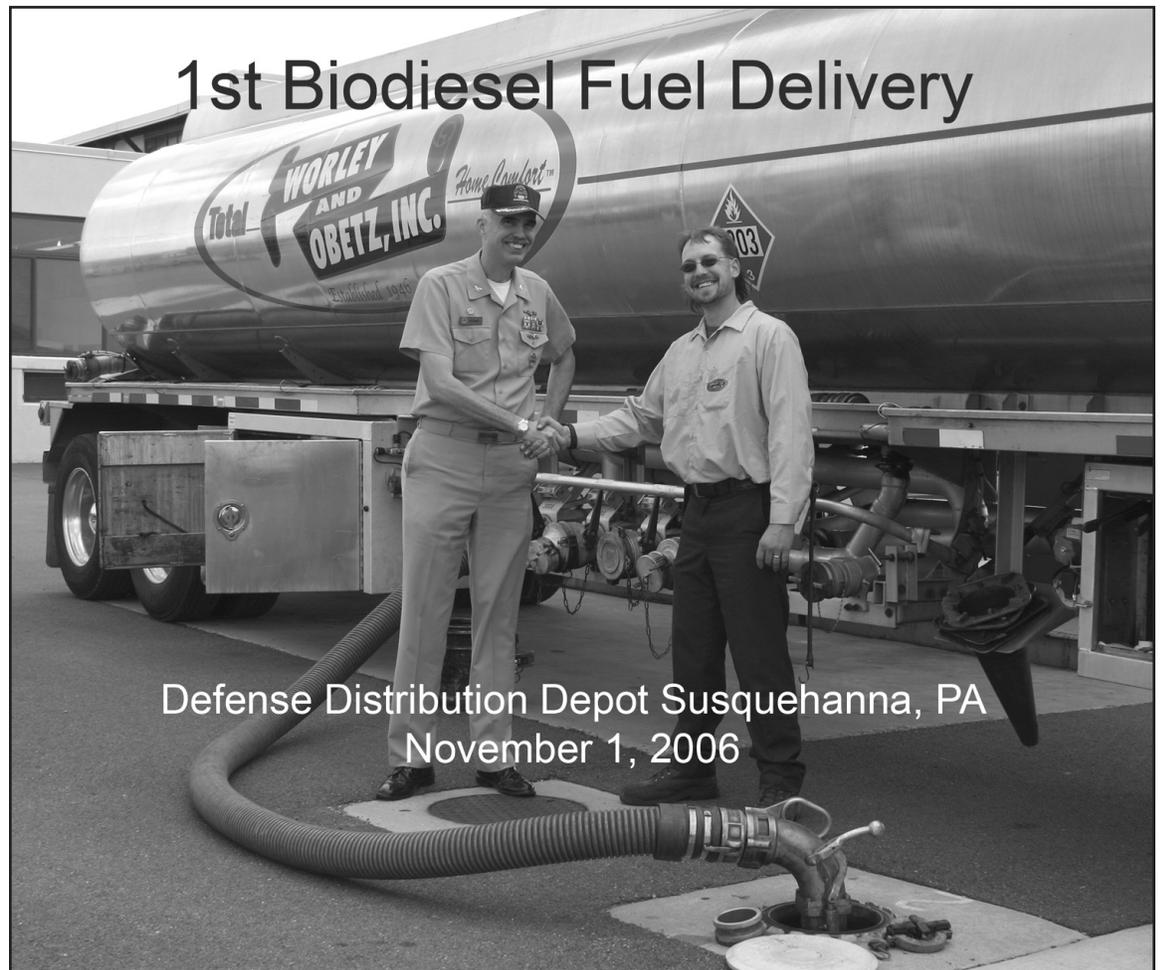
DDSP will use biodiesel as an alternative fuel for Material Handling Equipment (MHE) and vehicles that currently use diesel fuel on a regular basis. Equipment using this fuel includes garbage trucks, snow plows, diesel forklifts, front end loaders, and tractor trailers used to jockey materiel between DDSP's 58 buildings within its two sites at New Cumberland and Mechanicsburg Naval Support Activity. DDSP uses an average of 7,000 gallons of diesel each month.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning alternative fuel produced from domestic, renewable resources. The biodiesel used at DDSP is a mixture of 20 percent vegetable oil blend stock and 80 percent minimum low sulfur diesel fuel oil. In the Eastern U.S., biodiesel is blended with soy oil. It is a renewable energy source that burns cleaner, gives off fewer emissions, and reduces petroleum consumption. However, biodiesel components breakdown quicker than sulfur diesel, which means it cannot be used in equipment that is not used on a regular basis.

It took nearly a year to prepare for the first tank load of biodiesel to be delivered to the installation. A contract through the Defense Energy Supply Center (DESC) was arranged, extra filters were installed at the biodiesel fuel pumps and an above ground fuel tank was added for extra fuel storage capacity.

DESC procures biodiesel for military and federal civilian agencies to satisfy Environmental Protection Act requirements. Each agency operating 20 or more motor vehicles within the U.S. must reduce its entire vehicle fleet's annual petroleum consumption. One approach is to use biodiesel and alternative fuel vehicles, the other is the acquisition of higher fuel economy vehicles.

"In accordance with Executive Order 13149, the federal government is to take a leadership role in the reduction of vehicular petroleum consumption. Kudos to DDSP in taking a proactive approach in reducing our dependency on petroleum consumption," said Michael Dobbs, Chief of the Defense Distribution Center's Environment, Safety & Occupational Health Office.



DDSP Commander CAPT Jim Naber, SC, USN (left), greets the driver of the first truck to deliver biodiesel to the New Cumberland installation