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Europe Is Warming to Biomethane

Biogas has had a challenging time getting noticed in Europe, but is “finally on the policy agenda as a vehicle fuel,” says Jeff Seisler of Clean Fuels Consulting. He heard European Commission project directors on the subject at the final workshop of last month’s EC-funded project Biogasmax conference in Brussels.

“It appears that renewable methane for vehicles is finally ‘on the list,’” Seisler says, hailing “a major positive step for the NGV industry.”

Brussels-based Seisler helps clients navigate things like European Union Fuel Quality, Biofuels, and Renewable Energy Directive directives, Euro 5 and Euro 6 standards, the European Transport Fuel Policy, the Future Transport Fuels Expert Group, the 6th Framework Program, the European Parliament, the EC itself, and the United Nations in Geneva. He is tapped into the Committee for European Normalization, which is looking to create a European biomethane standard, paving the way for increased use.

Seisler has held “critical issues” workshops on LNG and dual fuel, and plans a biomethane meeting for early 2011.

“There are many remaining challenges facing biomethane,” Seisler warns, citing quality concerns, pipeline regulation, and the question of how biomethane will be treated in the context of conventional natural gas, a fossil fuel. “Details will have to be worked carefully through the policy process as it develops over the next several years.”

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