

E15 Waiver Request: On June 17th, the EPA announced that it is delaying the decision on whether to approve higher ethanol blends up to 15 percent, stating it needs until “this fall” to complete and review the data being conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). According to an EPA statement, “DOE is on track to complete testing designed to determine the impact of higher ethanol blends on vehicles built after 2007 by the end of September. DOE is also testing some vehicles built before 2007, and is also testing tanks and other fuel handling equipment to see how they might be affected by E15. While results from the tests conducted to-date look good, EPA will not make a final decision until DOE completes its current comprehensive testing of the newer vehicles,” the statement noted. Further, “EPA is taking steps to ensure the appropriate pieces are in place should the results of the complete set of tests be positive. Based on DOE's schedule, EPA believes it will be able to make a final determination on whether to approve the use of higher ethanol blends this fall,” the statement concluded.