

Latest News from Hans Huth on the Biodiesel Project
October 9, 2008

I'd like to send out a big thanks to Steve Fischer and Mike Foster who attended and ensured the U.S. was well represented at the Ambos Nogales Biodiesel media event on October 9, 2008. Although ADEQ did not address the audience or the media, the host of the event (Insitituto Tecnologico de Nogales (ITN)) did invited Steve Fischer (U.S. project volunteer) to address the audience on behalf of Arizona; Steve encapsulated the moment very well saying that this was a "dream come true for Nogales." ITN as well as SEMARNAT (Mexico's EPA) did acknowledge the support provided by the EPA Border 2012 program as well as ADEQ and Friends of the Santa Cruz River during the event.

This was a well coordinated event with a large turnout including two newspapers in addition to television media. During the event, ITN fueled and ran a Nogales, Sonora fire-truck with biodiesel (B20) rendered from waste vegetable oil using equipment donated by the Friends of the Santa Cruz River, Turner Laboratories, and Alcoa Fastening Systems. It was noted by Sonoran stakeholders that this is the first time anything like this has been attempted in a border community. On that note, this was a truly historic event.

Representatives from the municipality of Nogales, Sonora are looking forward to tapping this project to fuel their diesel garbage trucks with the potential of offsetting 20% of their fuel costs. Needless to say, the environmental benefits (reduced greenhouse gas contributions and particulate matter emissions) are also significant.

I sense the project is well on its way to being a success for Border 2012 and everyone who has supported this effort (University of Arizona, Rio Rico Fire District, ADEQ, Friends of the Santa Cruz River, Bomberos de Nogales, Instituto Tecnologico de Nogales, EPA Border 2012, Clean Cities Coalition, Steve Fischer, Turner Laboratories, Alcoa Fastening Systems, and all the others which are too numerous to list here).

Pictures from this event can be seen in the FOSCR Photo Gallery under the Biodiesel Project folder.