V-Twin Speed Masters
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Touring The Pacific Northwest
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY MAY NO LONGER REQUIRE MINIMUM GAS PURCHASE AT CERTAIN PUMPS
Instead May Label Those Pumps For Cars And Trucks Only

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is apparently scrapping its requirement that all consumers buy at least four gallons of gasoline from blender fuel pumps that dispense the new E15 ethanol-gasoline blend.

The EPA first revealed its minimum-purchase requirement to the AMA in a letter dated Aug. 1, responding to AMA concerns that E15—a gasoline formulation that contains up to 15 percent ethanol by volume—could be put in motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle gas tanks inadvertently when consumers used blender pumps. A blender pump dispenses different fuel blends through the same hose, and the vast majority of motorcycles and ATVs in use today aren’t designed to operate on E15 fuel.

The EPA had said that the minimum purchase requirement was meant to dilute any residual E15 fuel left in the hose—as much as a third of a gallon.

On Dec. 17, in response to ongoing AMA concerns, the EPA indicated that it would no longer require a minimum purchase of four gallons. Instead, the EPA will now likely require a label on blender pumps that dispense E10 and E15 through the same hose that states the pump is solely for passenger cars and trucks.

In addition, the EPA indicated it will require stations that sell E15 to also have a pump with a dedicated E10 hose for use by motorcycles and other vehicles not approved for E15.

The AMA has repeatedly expressed concerns to officials and lawmakers about possible damage to motorcycle and ATV engines caused by the inadvertent use of E15, and has asked that motorcycles and ATVs be part of any scientific study into E15’s effects.

In October 2010, the EPA approved the use of E15 in model year 2007 and newer light-duty vehicles (cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles). Then, in January 2011, the EPA added model year 2001-06 light-duty vehicles to the approved list.

NEW JERSEY GETS FIRST STATE-OWNED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK
Mount Pleasant State Off-Road Park Opened In January

After several years of searching for a suitable site, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has opened its first state-owned off-highway vehicle park.

In January, state and local officials invited motorcyclists and all-terrain vehicle riders to take a test ride in the new Mount Pleasant State Off-Road Vehicle Park, which is a mostly wooded tract in Woodbine, Cape May County.

It’s illegal to ride on any other state-owned land.

“We are very excited to showcase this new park,” says DEP Commissioner Bob Martin. “The Christie administration is committed to developing managed parks in the state that will provide fans of all-terrain vehicles a safe environment in which to enjoy their sport. Just as important, the park will take pressure off environmentally sensitive lands that are damaged by illegal use of ATVs.”

The DEP will prepare a request for proposals for bidders to operate the park under a 10-year agreement. The park will be available to riders seven days a week during normal operating hours set for the nearby Belleplain State Forest.

“This new park is going to mean a lot to our borough and surrounding areas,” says Woodbine Mayor William Pikolycky. “It’s wonderful that we will have a facility that provides legal recreational riding opportunities for enthusiasts of off-road vehicles. We will look to possibly expand the riding area in the near future.”

The DEP bought the 63-acre site of the former Mount Pleasant Sand and Gravel operation in November 2011 for $393,000.

Ten acres, including an existing ¾-mile ATV course, will be used initially for the park, with future expansion planned. The park consists of sand pits, sand roads and sandy areas left over from the former mining and motocross operations there. It’s suitable for beginning to intermediate riders.

Legislation enacted in 2009 calls for the DEP to establish three regional OHV parks.

SOUND TESTING KITS AVAILABLE
Application Deadline Is March 1

The AMA is once again donating sound testing kits to help AMA members, districts, clubs and others educate riders about sound.

The sound testing kit consists of a type 2 sound meter, tachometer, training materials, spark arrester probe, personal protective equipment and a storage case.

The kits will be awarded through a competitive grant process. To apply for a sound testing kit, a club or promoter must complete an application and return it to the AMA Government Relations Department by March 1.

For more information on the sound meter grant program, or to request an application, send an email to amagrd@ama-cycle.org.

AmericanMotorcyclist.com