

**From:** [Lehrkamp, Deanna](#)  
**To:** [Regynski, Barb](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Kim \(DENR\)](#); [Duvall, Ron](#); [Gustafson, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Comment on the VW Settlement  
**Date:** Friday, December 08, 2017 4:10:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Brick - VW Letter 12-8-17.docx](#)

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**From:** Jerry Brick [mailto:[jbrick@nstarenergy.net](mailto:jbrick@nstarenergy.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 08, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** DENR INTERNET INFORMATION  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comment on the VW Settlement

Hello Barb,

I wish to submit the attached comments to the VW Mitigation Plan.

Thank you,

Jerry Brick  
North Star Energy LLC  
721 S State St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-225-6383  
605-225-6389 (fax)  
[jbrick@nstarenergy.net](mailto:jbrick@nstarenergy.net)



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North Star Energy - 721 S State St. Aberdeen, SD - 605-225-6383.



December 8, 2017

Barb Regynski  
SD Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Comments on use of VW settlement funds

Dear Ms. Regynski:

Those of us in the propane industry sometimes forget that what excites us might be unknown and confusing to others. One term we often throw around is “autogas”. The word might leave you wondering: Is it gasoline? Can it only be used in cars? Is it some new fuel?

In fact, it is the same propane fuel that is suited for a variety of applications, such as home heating, generators, barbeque grills, forklifts and more. Around the globe, propane is referred to as “autogas” when used as an on-road transportation fuel. In the U.S., you may hear it called “propane autogas.” It’s all the same thing.

Even if the term is unfamiliar, the use of propane autogas is common. Consider:

- Propane autogas is the third most popular fuel around the world after gasoline and diesel.
- 26 million vehicles worldwide fuel with propane autogas in their tanks. These vehicles include shuttles, school buses, taxis, delivery vans, construction trucks, transit vehicles and more.
- Propane autogas has been in use for more than 100 years and according to the World LP Gas Association, global consumption of the fuel has increased by 50 percent in the last decade.
- Propane autogas is popular for many reasons: It's a clean-burning fuel that reduces emissions that endanger people and the environment, it costs less than other fuels, it's quieter and it's readily available from domestic sources.
- Installing a propane autogas fueling station is less expensive than building infrastructure for any other type of fuel.

While many environmental concerns may feel too big to tackle, the issue of nitrogen oxides (NOx) – and the threat they pose to clean air and water – is one problem every fleet owner can help alleviate.

Nitrogen oxides are highly reactive gases that contribute to acid rain, smog and deteriorated water quality. These gases contain nitrogen and oxygen in varying amounts and are formed when fuel is burned at high temperatures. Exposure to NOx can irritate the eyes and skin, and trigger asthma and other respiratory tract issues.

With motor vehicles being the primary source of NOx, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board have both set standards for lowering NOx emissions.

Choosing a clean-burning fuel like propane autogas for fleet vehicles can help cut NOx emissions considerably. Propane autogas is naturally lower in NOx than diesel or gasoline. For example, for heavier-duty engines (class 4-7 vehicles) fueled by propane autogas, NOx is reduced by about 60 percent compared with conventional diesel engines. Propane fueled vehicles also emit 20 percent less NOx than gasoline-powered engines.

The main purpose of the VW Environmental Mitigation Settlement is to offset the extra NOx emissions caused by vehicles that were deliberately programmed to cheat laboratory emissions testing. The combination of propane autogas' low NOx qualities and new low-NOx propane engines means school buses and transit vehicles should qualify for the VW Settlement funding.

As you continue to examine the best ways to reduce emissions and benefit our SD communities, please include propane-powered (autogas) vehicles in your Environmental Mitigation Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Brick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "B".

Jerry Brick  
Chairman  
National Propane Gas Association