

March 21, 2011

Report to MMOPA and Clean 100-Octane Coalition

As your representative to the FAA's Unleaded Avgas Transition Advisory Rulemaking Committee (UAT-ARC), I wanted to provide a brief report on the meeting last week in DC.

First, I believe that for the first time, all of the right and necessary people to address this problem are at the same table – government, industry, and representatives of GA piston aircraft users – that alone is significant. I was impressed with the cooperative attitude and the common purpose I saw among the approximately 20 people participating. I am more optimistic for a productive outcome after the meeting than I was going in. The two-day meeting was intense with few breaks and working lunches. This is a dedicated group, ready to roll up their sleeves and work hard.

The initial meeting of the ARC was organizational and formative. The schedule of meetings and telecons over the next 4 months is very aggressive with a goal of providing its report to the Administrator by July 31, if possible.

I found during our meetings that there was ample opportunity to provide meaningful input to the group from the perspective of the high-performance piston aircraft owner/operator. I also felt that our input was genuinely appreciated and thoughtfully considered. I believe there is good justification for our continued participation.

One outcome from the meetings was that progress reports would come in the form of an official release. The ARC believes that good communication with the avgas constituent community during the process is very important, but that the ARC needs to speak with one voice to avoid potential setbacks in public perception from miscommunications. I added to this strategy that the reports must be substantive to have credibility and any positive effect on the public perception and/or the stagnated GA market. Accordingly, my comments here are general in nature. UAT-ARC updates will be shared with the Clean 100-Octane Coalition as they become available.

As the process proceeds, I am also happy to receive and provide to the ARC any particular concerns or issues that our members may want to submit.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Sisk, President
MMOPA