



August 28, 2026

New Additions to Educational Sessions for 2026 Annual Meeting at the Greenbrier

We are pleased to announce two important additions to our business sessions at the 2026 Annual Meeting at the Greenbrier September 20-22.

Daniel Fortier, VP of Fuel Supply and Economics at Motiva will be presenting the keynote address on Monday morning on the topic "Global Conflict's Effects on Fuels," an especially timely program that will be of interest to all attendees. Motiva is also sponsoring our opening reception on Sunday evening. Tuesday morning, Chris Curtis, Deputy Secretary of the Virginia ABC Board, will be speaking on "What Every Virginia Tobacco Seller Needs to Know About the October 1 Registration, Mandatory Employee Training, and Inspection Schedules." Mr. Curtis has represented the board for over 25 years, with a particular focus on the agency's legislative and regulatory initiatives. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from Virginia's expert on the new regulations and have your questions answered. Below we are reprinting our article from two weeks ago detailing the provisions of the new law and requirements that must be met by October 1.



As of last week, VPCMA's special group rate room block has sold out, but rooms may be available at the Greenbrier's prevailing rate. **You can check by calling 855-453-4858 and asking about the VPCMA Group to see what is remaining.**

Click below for the full meeting promo and to reserve your spot!

[Register for Meeting](#)

[Meeting Promo](#)

Reminder: Tobacco Licensure, Regulation and Fees Effective October 1

As the result of legislation passed by the General Assembly earlier this year (which we opposed) all businesses that sell retail tobacco products will be required to have a license by October 1 of this year. [Click here](#) for compliance documents from ABC and steps your business must take before October 1 to be in compliance.

Unfortunately, the General Assembly also included a first ever registration fee of \$400 or \$300 for those with an existing ABC license. The bill also includes mandatory employee training on underage sales of tobacco products. The new laws require that the retail tobacco permit applicant attest that their employees have received training regarding ID checking, placement of signage, prohibited acts, and penalties. Virginia ABC has launched VERT (Virginia Education for Retailers of Tobacco), which contains the required training elements. It is free of

charge and can be taken online through [Virginia ABC's website](#). Additionally, the legislature has also added a future annual renewal fee per location with an undetermined price tag.

The new taxes generated by these fees are designed to fund once every 24 months inspections of all tobacco outlets. This is complete overkill in that Virginia has the lowest rate of underage sales in the South and that rate has declined precipitously since the start of tobacco 21 in 2018. Further, after October 1, inspections of tobacco outlets will be more frequent than those ABC performs for alcohol compliance. How does that make sense? Ask the General Assembly and Governor Spanberger.

EPA Updates National Fuel Waiver — Extends E15, RVP Relief, and Accelerates Winter Gasoline Transition

From EMA

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin last week issued a national fuel waiver under Clean Air Act Section 211(c)(4)(C), citing extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstances driven by ongoing Middle East conflicts and reduced U.S. refining capacity. The waiver — a renewal and extension of prior actions dating to March 2026 — provides immediate and near-term flexibility for fuel marketers and distributors across the country.

What the Waiver Does

Effective August 29, 2026, the waiver:

- Extends the ethanol blending limit from 10% to 15%, authorizing E15 sales nationwide
- Reinstates the 1 psi RVP allowance for ethanol blends in states where it had previously been removed
- Waives federal RVP standards — allowing gasoline with an RVP of up to 10 psi (when blended with 9–15% ethanol) to be distributed and sold nationwide through August 31
- Waives federal enforcement of state boutique fuel requirements for an additional 20 days through September 15, 2026, or September 17 where SIP requirements extend beyond that date
- Accelerates the transition to winter gasoline — beginning September 1 rather than the standard September 16 date, using the location-specific ASTM D-4814 volatility limits applicable to September 16

Rationale Behind the New Fuel Waiver

National motor gasoline inventories remain 6% below the five-year average for this time of year, and EIA projects inventories to remain below the seasonal five-year range until fall 2026. Iranian attacks on tankers transiting the Strait of Hormuz and strikes against regional oil and gas infrastructure have disrupted global energy markets, while U.S. refining capacity has declined by 800,000 barrels per day since January 2020. Refinery utilization currently stands at 96.2% — leaving virtually no production cushion to absorb disruptions.

Implications for EMA Marketers

The waiver eliminates the near-term obligation to transition to lower-volatility summer blends, preserving fuel supply volumes at a critical time. Fuel marketers and distributors may continue selling gasoline under the waiver's RVP standards through the applicable expiration dates. EPA has indicated its intention to issue a further renewal if extreme and unusual supply circumstances persist beyond the current control period. EMA will continue to monitor for any EPA renewal notice ahead of September 15.

Full waiver letter available at epa.gov/gasoline-standards/fuel-waivers.

We have been in regular contact with the Virginia Department of Weights and Measures which has enforcement authority relative to fuel specifications. They inform us that their April 26, 2026 memorandum [found here](#) will remain in force. Whether this will be extended beyond September 15 is to be determined.

FEMA Shares National Preparedness Month Partner Resources

September 1 marks the start of National Preparedness Month. FEMA's Ready Campaign created a toolkit to help our state, local, tribal and territorial, private sector and faith-based and community partners share preparedness information.

Helping Our Partners Promote National Preparedness Month

From emergencies like a home fire to large-scale hazards like wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes, it's not a question of if you will experience an emergency or disaster, it's a question of when. That's why, for more than 20 years, FEMA's Ready Campaign has sponsored and managed [National Preparedness Month](#). This annual September observance is designed to encourage Americans to prepare for disasters and emergencies that could happen anywhere and at any time.

This year's campaign theme is "Americans Stand Ready". This theme emphasizes readiness as a matter of civic responsibility and celebrates the independent, self-reliant spirit of the American people.

To help our state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector and faith-based and community organizations promote personal preparedness information within their communities, the Ready Campaign is providing a free, ready-to-use toolkit with customizable preparedness messaging and safety tips.

Call to Action

You can encourage and empower individuals to take charge of their own readiness by calling for them to take some simple, low or no cost actions to be prepared:

- [Make a plan](#) for your household, including [your pets](#), so that you and your family know what to do, where to go and what you will need to protect yourselves during a disaster. Consider the unique risks where you live and the needs of your family.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. disasters can happen suddenly, so it's important to have multiple ways to get alerts. Anyone can [download the free FEMA App](#) to receive real-time weather alerts, locate emergency shelters in your area, prepare for common hazards and more. The [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Know [where you'll go](#) if you need to leave your home and learn [your evacuation routes](#) so you can get there safely.
- [Visit Ready.gov](#) for preparedness tips, checklists and a free downloadable family communications plan.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Intergovernmental Affairs at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at FEMA-Private-Sector@fema.dhs.gov



Catterton Memorial Golf Tournament Sponsorships Available

The 2026 Dave Catterton Memorial Golf Tournament returns to the Greenbrier on Monday, September 21 at the Meadows Course. We will have shot-gun start at 12:30. The scramble will feature prizes for the top 3 teams as well as several proximity contests and winners will be rewarded at our 19th hole reception on the clubhouse porch after the tournament ends.

Click below for tournament and hole sponsorship opportunities.

Golf Tournament Sponsorships

Thank You EMA PAC Contributors

Recently, along with EMA 1st Vice Chair Lewis Wall, we began our 2026 solicitation for contributions to the Energy Marketers Association (EMA) of America's Political Action Committee. As a VPCMA member, you are automatically a member of EMA which lobbies Congress and interacts with many regulatory agencies that impact the nation's fuel marketers. An important component of that representation is supporting those elected officials who support us on Capitol Hill. Federal political contributions must be made by **personal check**. We hope that you will join us in sending a personal check for \$150 made out to "**EMA PAC**." Please mail to the office as follows:

VPCMA
7275 Glen Forest Drive
Suite 204
Richmond, VA 23226

Thank you to all of our contributors to date:

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Sincerely,

Mike O'Connor
President, VPCMA



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