

Senators McGinn, Day, Murphy and Vickerman introduced--

S.F. No. 3546: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming.

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to military; permitting military personnel stationed outside Minnesota  
1.3 to enter state parks without a fee while home on leave; amending Minnesota  
1.4 Statutes 2004, section 85.053, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 85.053, is amended by adding a  
1.7 subdivision to read:

1.8 Subd. 8. Military personnel on leave; exemption. (a) The provisions of this  
1.9 section requiring a state park permit and regulating its display do not apply to a motor  
1.10 vehicle being used by a person who is serving in active military service in any branch or  
1.11 unit of the United States armed forces and who is stationed outside Minnesota, during  
1.12 the period of active service and for 90 days immediately thereafter, if the person notifies  
1.13 the park attendant on duty or other designee of the commissioner of the person's military  
1.14 status at the time of usage. It shall suffice for the notice that the eligible person temporarily  
1.15 affixes to the inside of the windshield of the vehicle in a visible manner the person's  
1.16 current military orders and carries in the person's possession current military identification  
1.17 attesting to the person's active or recent military status.

1.18 (b) For purposes of this section, "active service" has the meaning given under section  
1.19 190.05, subdivision 5c, when performed outside Minnesota.

1.20 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Senators Senjem, Koering, Sparks and Dille introduced-

S.F. No. 3506: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming.

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to agriculture; creating a farm enhancement loan program; appropriating  
1.3 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 41B.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. 41B.051 FARM ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The authority shall establish and implement a farm  
1.7 enhancement loan program to help finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement  
1.8 of buildings for dairy animal housing, confinement, feeding, milk production, and waste  
1.9 management.

1.10 Subd. 2. Eligibility. A borrower under this section must meet the eligibility  
1.11 requirements of section 41B.03, subdivision 1, and must use the loan for the acquisition,  
1.12 construction, or improvement of buildings for dairy animal housing, confinement, feeding,  
1.13 milk production, and waste management.

1.14 Subd. 3. Loan specifications; forgiveness. (a) The authority may make a direct  
1.15 loan to a borrower under this section in an amount equal to 25 percent of the cost of  
1.16 eligible expenditures under subdivision 2 or \$50,000, whichever is less. Payments and  
1.17 interest on the loan are deferred for ten years after disbursement, so long as the borrower  
1.18 or the borrower's immediate family remains the principal operator of the farm on which  
1.19 loan expenditures were made. If, after ten years, the borrower or the borrower's immediate  
1.20 family remains the principal operator of the farm on which loan expenditures were made,  
1.21 the loan is forgiven. If the borrower or the borrower's immediate family ceases to be the  
1.22 principal operator of the farm on which the loan expenditures were made less than ten  
1.23 years after the loan was disbursed, the loan is immediately payable in full, with interest at  
1.24 a rate determined by the authority.

2.1 (b) A loan under this section must be secured by a mortgage on real property and  
2.2 such other security as the authority may require.

(c) For purposes of this subdivision, "borrower's immediate family" means:

- 2.4 (1) a son or daughter of the borrower, or a descendant of either;
- 2.5 (2) a stepson or stepdaughter of the borrower;
- 2.6 (3) the father or mother of the borrower, or an ancestor of either;
- 2.7 (4) a stepfather or stepmother of the borrower; or
- 2.8 (5) a spouse of the borrower.

2.9 Subd. 4. Application and origination fees. The authority may impose a reasonable  
2.10 nonrefundable application fee for each loan application and an origination fee for each  
2.11 loan issued under the farm enhancement loan program. The origination fee is initially 1.5  
2.12 percent and the application fee is \$50. The authority may review the fees annually and  
2.13 make adjustments as necessary.

2.14 Subd. 5. Revolving fund. A revolving fund is established in the state treasury,  
2.15 which is eligible to receive appropriations. All repayments of loans granted under  
2.16 subdivision 3, including principal and interest, and fees under subdivision 4, must be  
2.17 deposited into the fund. Interest earned on money in the fund accrues to the fund. Money  
2.18 in the fund is appropriated to the commissioner of agriculture for purposes of the farm  
2.19 enhancement loan program under this section, including costs incurred by the authority  
2.20 to establish and administer the program.

2.21 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2.22 \$1,500,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture  
2.23 to administer the farm enhancement loan program under section 1. The money is available  
2.24 until June 30, 2007.

2.25 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.26 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

Senators Murphy and Vickerman introduced-

S.F. No. 3345: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming.

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to nursery stock; providing for improved consumer education at the  
1.3 point of retail sale; requiring a report to the legislature.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **CONSUMER EDUCATION; TOXICITY OF NURSERY STOCK.**

1.6 **Subdivision 1. Findings.** The legislature finds that retail consumers of nursery  
1.7 stock are frequently unaware that certain plant materials they purchase may, under certain  
1.8 circumstances, be a safety risk to persons, livestock, or household pets exposed to the  
1.9 plant materials. The risk varies substantially depending on the variety and maturity of  
1.10 plant material involved, the quantity ingested or exposed to the person, livestock, or pets,  
1.11 and other factors. Further, the legislature finds that the nursery industry has a strong  
1.12 interest in continuing to work with the Department of Agriculture to provide consistent  
1.13 customer service information to better inform consumers of risks.

1.14 **Subd. 2. Commissioner to coordinate.** By March 1, 2007, the commissioner of  
1.15 agriculture, in consultation with organizations of nursery stock growers, dealers, and  
1.16 retailers, and other interested parties, shall recommend appropriate procedures and display  
1.17 materials for increasing public awareness of the varying levels of toxic hazard posed by  
1.18 certain nursery stock plants to livestock, household pets, and people.

1.19 **Subd. 3. Report to legislative committees.** By April 1, 2007, the commissioner  
1.20 of agriculture shall report to the standing committees of the senate and the house of  
1.21 representatives with jurisdiction over agriculture policy on the results of efforts to increase  
1.22 retail consumer awareness of potential toxic hazards posed by certain nursery stock.

1.23 Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.1

Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.

# Envirotemp® FR3™ Fluid

## Key Attributes

### Feature

- Very High Fire Point of 360°C
- Third Party Listings
  - Approved by Factory Mutual
  - Classified by Underwriters Laboratories™
- Fully Miscible with Conventional Transformer Oil, High Molecular Weight Hydrocarbons (HMWH), and Most Askarel Substitutes
- Commodity Seed Oil-Based with Food Grade Additives
  
- Biodegradation Rate Meets EPA Standard Reference Material Deemed “Ultimately Biodegradable” per EPA Test OPPTS 835.3100
- Acute Toxicity Test OECD G.L. 203 (Trout Fry) Achieved Zero Mortality Rate
- Contains No Petroleum
- Enhances Insulating Paper Thermal Life by a Factor of 5 to 8 Times
- Better Loadbreak Dielectric Strength Retention
- Superior Resistance to Coke and Sludge Formation
- Lower Operating Viscosity Than Silicone and HMWHs
- ISO 9001 Certified Production Facility
- ANSI/IEEE C57.00 and Field Tested

### Benefit

- Increased Margin of Fire Safety
- Easy Code Compliance
  
- Excellent for Refilling Existing Liquid-Filled Transformers
  - Maintains Fire Point over 300°C with up to 7.5% Residual Mineral Oil
- Renewable Natural Resource
- FDA Certifiable (Differentiates Edible Oil from Mineral Oil Regulations)
- New and Pending Environmental Regulatory Relief
- Reduced Environmental Impact in the Event of an Accidental Spill
  - For Clean-Up Natural Remediation May be an Option
- Key Attribute for Gaining Environmentally Preferred Product (EPP) Status
- Replaces a Depleting Non-Renewable Resource
- Longer Life and/or Higher Operating Temperature
- Reduced Rate of Dielectric Degradation
- Better Dielectric and Thermal Performance
- More Effective Cooling; Lower Transformer Design Cost Than Other Less-Flammable Fluids
- Quality Assurance
- Laboratory and Field Proven Functionality

Bulletin 97081

Key Attributes

June, 2001

(Supersedes December, 1997)

 **COOPER Power Systems**

COOPER POWER SYSTEMS  
Fluids Products  
1900 East North Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188-3899  
800-643-4335; FAX 262-524-4654



### **What is FR3?**

Cooper Power Systems, a leading manufacturer of electrical distribution equipment, developed the Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid in 1997. Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid is developed by blending seed oils, including soybean oil, with food-grade performance enhancing additives, resulting in an environmentally preferred, readily bio-degradable product. The fluid contains no petroleum, halogens or silicones. Edible seed oils are an attractive resource because they are widely available and, unlike mineral oils, derived from renewable resources.

### **What are the environmental benefits of FR3?**

Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid uses as its base food-grade vegetable oil, which is non-toxic according to guidelines developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a worldwide standard setting body. In addition, Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid is biodegradable based on testing done by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

### **Why would a utility use FR3?**

Utilities are beginning to recognize the advantages offered by this revolutionary fluid over traditional dielectric fluids (non-conductive fluids used to insulate and cool electrical distribution products such as transformers), including added performance and environmental characteristics. Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid extends paper insulation life five to eight times, lowering life cycle costs. The increased insulation life also translates to extended and enhanced transformer life or the ability to carry higher loads during peak demand periods without leading to premature insulation failure. The enhanced performance allows utilities to manage their assets more profitably and forestall costly capital expenditures.

The fluid also has excellent fire resistant qualities. Recognized testing laboratories have listings allowing Envirotemp® FR3™ transformer installations outdoors and indoors, typically without costly fire protection devices. Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid is covered by several international patents.

### **Who is using FR3?**

In Minnesota, a number of municipal public utilities and rural electric cooperatives purchased or are considering Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid. The utilities include: Virginia, Grand Rapids, and New Ulm public utilities; People's Electric in Rochester and Roseau Electric Utility; and Red Lake, Steel Waseca, and North Star rural electric cooperatives.

### **What is the market for soybean based transformer fluid?**

Each year throughout the U.S., 75 million gallons of transformer fluid is used to retro-fill or fill newly manufactured transformers. The intent is not to replace 75 millions gallons of petroleum based transformer fluid, but introduce an ag-based, environmentally-friendly substitute with equal or better performance. The intent of the legislation is to provide an incentive for an alternative fluid, since petroleum-based transformer fluid is cheaper.

### **Who makes FR3?**

Cooper Power Systems ([www.cooperpower.com/](http://www.cooperpower.com/)), a subsidiary of Cooper Industries (NYSE: CBE), owns the patents to Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid. Cooper is a diversified worldwide manufacturer of products for the electrical, commercial, and industrial markets. CPS manufactures distribution transformers, distribution switchgear, reclosers, capacitors, protective relays, voltage regulators, automated switches, cable accessories, surge arresters, transformer components and dielectric coolants, fuses, tools and engineering services for the electrical utility and industrial markets. Cargill, a Minnesota headquartered company, manufactures Envirotemp® FR3™ fluid for Cooper.

- 1.1 Senator ..... moves to amend S.F. No. 3314 as follows:
- 1.2 Page 1, line 14, after "commissioner" insert "of agriculture"
- 1.3 Page 1, line 20, delete "non-soy-based" and insert "soy-based"
- 1.4 Page 2, line 13, delete "\$240,000" and insert "\$....." and delete the second "to"
- 1.5 and insert "for"
- 1.6 Page 2, line 14, delete "administer section 1" and insert "the program"



Senators Vickerman, Frederickson, Anderson, Kubly and Rosen introduced—  
S.F. No. 3314: Referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to agriculture; creating a soy-based transformer fluid conversion  
1.3 allowance program; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. SOY-BASED TRANSFORMER FLUID CONVERSION ALLOWANCE  
1.6 PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the terms in this  
1.8 subdivision have the meanings given them.

1.9 (b) "Electric utility" means a public utility producing or furnishing electricity,  
1.10 including, but not limited to, municipal utilities and cooperative electric associations, rural  
1.11 or otherwise, organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 308A.

1.12 (c) "Soy-based transformer fluid" means dielectric fluid that contains at least 98  
1.13 percent soy-based products.

1.14 Subd. 2. Establishment. The commissioner shall establish and implement a  
1.15 soy-based transformer fluid conversion allowance program, issuing funds to help electric  
1.16 utilities finance the replacement of non-soy-based transformer fluid with renewable,  
1.17 soy-based transformer fluid.

1.18 Subd. 3. Eligibility. An electric utility is eligible to receive a conversion allowance  
1.19 to offset the cost of purchasing soy-based transformer fluid. Allowances are calculated at  
1.20 a rate of \$2 per gallon of non-soy-based transformer fluid used during the transition. The  
1.21 total allowance awarded to any one electric utility may not exceed \$80,000. Eligible costs  
1.22 are limited to those meeting all of the following requirements:

1.23 (1) the costs were incurred after June 30, 2006, and before January 1, 2008;

2.1 (2) the costs were incurred in the first 18 months of the transition from using  
2.2 non-soy-based transformer fluid to using soy-based transformer fluid; and

2.3 (3) the costs are limited to the purchase of soy-based transformer fluid.

2.4 Subd. 4. Awarding of conversion allowances. Applications for conversion  
2.5 allowances must be made to the commissioner on forms prescribed by the commissioner.  
2.6 Applicants must furnish a signed, dated copy of purchase agreements or other agreements  
2.7 to purchase soy-based transformer fluid. The commissioner shall review all applications  
2.8 and award conversion allowances to electric utilities for eligible costs, subject to the  
2.9 restrictions in subdivision 3. Applications shall be reviewed and allowances awarded in  
2.10 the order received by the commissioner. Ineligible applicants shall be notified in writing.

2.11 Subd. 5. Expiration. This section expires January 1, 2009.

2.12 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.

2.13 \$240,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture to  
2.14 administer section 1 and is available until expended.

1.1 **Senator Vickerman from the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming,**  
1.2 **to which was referred**

1.3 **S.F. No. 3546:** A bill for an act relating to military; permitting military personnel  
stationed outside Minnesota to enter state parks without a fee while home on leave;  
1.5 amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 85.053, by adding a subdivision.

1.6 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass. Report  
1.7 adopted.

1.8   
1.9 (Committee Chair)

1.10 March 29, 2006 .....  
1.11 (Date of Committee recommendation)

1.1 **Senator Vickerman from the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming,**  
1.2 **to which was referred**

1.3 **S.F. No. 3506:** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; creating a farm enhancement  
1.5 loan program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,  
chapter 41B.

1.6 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass and be  
1.7 re-referred to the Committee on Finance. Report adopted.

1.8   
1.9 (Committee Chair)

1.10 March 29, 2006 .....  
1.11 (Date of Committee recommendation)

1.1 **Senator Vickerman from the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming,**  
1.2 **to which was re-referred**

1.3 **S.F. No. 3314:** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; creating a soy-based  
transformer fluid conversion allowance program; appropriating money.

1.5 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

1.6 Page 1, line 14, after "commissioner" insert "of agriculture"

1.7 Page 1, line 20, delete "non-soy-based" and insert "soy-based"

1.8 Page 2, line 13, delete "\$240,000" and insert "\$....." and delete the second "to"  
1.9 and insert "for"

1.10 Page 2, line 14, delete "administer section 1" and insert "the program"

1.11 And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on  
1.12 Finance. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.

3  
1.14   
.....  
(Committee Chair)

1.15 March 29, 2006 .....

1.16 (Date of Committee recommendation)

1.1 **Senator Vickerman from the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming,**  
1.2 **to which was referred**

1.3 **S.F. No. 3345:** A bill for an act relating to nursery stock; providing for improved  
consumer education at the point of retail sale; requiring a report to the legislature.

1.5 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

1.6 Page 1, delete lines 6 to 13

1.7 Page 1, line 14, delete "Subd. 2" and insert "Subdivision 1"

1.8 Page 1, line 19, delete "3" and insert "2"

1.9 And when so amended the bill do pass. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.

1.10   
1.11 (Committee Chair)

2 March 29, 2006 .....  
1.13 (Date of Committee recommendation)