

**REGULATOR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGISTRATION DIVISION**

**Association of American Pesticide Control Officials
Annual Meeting
March 9-11, 2015**

Regulator In Residence (RIR) Program

- Unique Opportunity**
- Issues & Items of Interest**
- Retrospection**
- The Future of the Program**

RIR...A Unique Opportunity

- Direct benefits to the State Lead Agency (SLA), EPA, and the regulated industry
 - Provide States' perspective on pesticide-related matters, specifically label language, in guidance to EPA
 - Expand knowledge of the federal registration process, including other opportunities for input...better relay information regarding the registration process to interested parties
 - Establish contacts (SLA, EPA & Industry)
 - Further strengthens our relationship with EPA...as co-regulators, a strong working relationship is essential

RIR ...What It Is Not

- Does **not** circumvent or in any way replace the current mechanisms in place for dialogue and feedback from SLAs
 - AAPCO
 - SFIREG
 - Working Committees
 - ASPCRO
 - PPDC
 - Other Associations, Working Groups, etc

RIR...Issues & Items of Interest

- National Focus, e.g..
 - Pollinator Protection – Label Amendments
 - Web Distributed Labeling
 - Structured Labeling ; “*Smart Labels*”
 - Spray Drift...new 2,4-D and Dicamba uses
 - Bilingual Labeling
- State Specific Issues and Items
 - FL – Soil fumigants; Pilot 24(c) Project; Non-Native Species Eradication Program
 - IN – Antimicrobial misbranding; distributor registration
 - VA – Bilingual Labeling Pilot Project; spray drift

RIR...Observations

- Perceptions \neq Reality
- EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is fully supportive of Program
- EPA Staff are competent and hardworking
 - Actively seek input into decisions and actions
 - Decisions and actions often made under intense pressure and small windows of time
- EPA Staff take actions based on:
 - Best science available
 - Legal requirements
 - Political environment
- OPP and Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance at times lack cohesion
- Headquarters & Regions at times experience a disconnection
 - Priorities
 - Dissemination of information

RIR...Retrospection

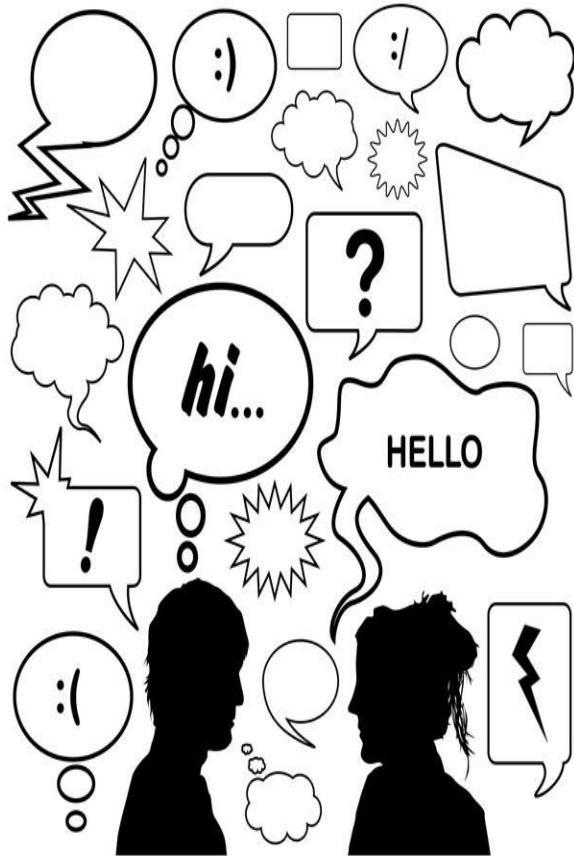
Myriad of opportunities for both SLAs and EPA...



- Form and strengthen relationships
- Enhance SLAs' knowledge of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs
 - ▣ Divisions and roles
 - ▣ Interactions between Divisions
 - ▣ Registration process
 - Risk assessment
 - Risk mitigation

“Everything begins & ends with the label”

RIR...Retrospection



- Enhance EPA's knowledge of State Lead Agencies for pesticide regulation
 - ▣ Programs
 - ▣ Enforcement...*what really happens in the field*

- Provide occasions for open dialogue
 - ▣ Can agree to disagree!

RIR...Retrospection



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RESPECT
ME**

- Fosters mutual respect
 - Federal and state roles and responsibilities
 - Unique challenges EPA & SLAs face
 - Acknowledge differences
 - Keep communication lines open

- Re-enforces shared goals
 - Protect Human Health
 - Protect Environment
 - Ensure Availability of Pesticides
 - Fast track “safer” Pesticides

RIR...Retrospection



- Fostered current and future collaboration between EPA & SLAs
- Enhanced relationships between SLAs
 - ▣ IN, FL & VA participated in 2 joint visits
- Joint visits provided multiple perspectives to EPA
- Leverage resources !!!

RIR...Retrospection



- **Select Successes**
 - Bilingual Labeling Pilot Project – provided staff to assist & mechanism for preliminary user feedback
 - Learned distributor registration process pitfalls & go to guys
 - Made AD aware of label compliance issues
 - Reinforced OPP/OECA/Region/SLA coordination needs on “Smart Label” & “Label Matching” efforts

RIR...The Future

- Fully support continuation of program
 - Still some unfinished “issues and items of interest”
 - Pollinator Protection
 - Spray Drift
 - “Smart Label” & “Label Matching”
 - 24/7 label improvement activities
- Expand to other Divisions within OPP
- Expand to OECA
 - Program did provide opportunity to meet with OECA
 - Bridge the gap between the two

RIR...The Future

- Need for “Handler”
 - Primary POC
 - Schedule meetings
 - Building Access
 - Badging process
- Maintaining flexibility for participants is key...we all have a “real” job
- Challenges
 - Varying levels of participant knowledge
 - Six weeks is a long time to be out of the office
 - Cost to participate is incurred by the SLA
 - Interest
 - Coordination between EPA divisions & office placement



Regulator In Residence Program...

...The Future

Rising to the Challenges

- Orientation to OPP Divisions & Program
- Additional flexibility
 - Less than six weeks
 - Partial weeks (e.g., in combination with AAPCO meeting)
 - Issue focused visit
 - Week-in-Residence
- Advertise!
 - Benefits
 - Selection
- Seek participants to provide cross section of programs
- Utilize past participants as resources for new participants

Comments...Questions...Concerns...

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