

Region 2  
State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Meeting  
April 28, 2016

A Pre-SFIREG meeting was held on April 28, 2016 in Edison NJ with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 and the Region 2 State Lead Agencies (states). New York and New Jersey staff participated both by telephone and in person, USEPA participated in person, and Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands participated by telephone.

The following are some of the major topics discussed during the meeting:

USEPA's proposed certification and training regulations

- Tara Glynn, USEPA Region 2, provided an update on the proposed certification and training regulation. This update included a comparison between the proposed rule and the current rule. During this overview the states expressed concerns over the need to potentially implement these regulations during the same time as the recently adopted Worker Protection Standard regulations. This will place a significant burden on state resources. There was also concern over the certified applicators ability, especially agricultural applicators, to comply with both sets of new regulations simultaneously.

Proposed implementation of the amended Worker Protection Standard rule

- The Region and the states discussed the implementation of the amended Worker Protection Standard rule. Prior to the Pre-SFIREG meeting USEPA Region 2 hosted a regional training on the amended rule. All of the Region 2 states participated in this training either in person or by video conference. The information presented was beneficial to the states and USEPA staff allowing them to prepare for the upcoming outreach season and the implementation of the rule. Most of the Region 2 states have begun conducting outreach with more outreach anticipated in the upcoming months. The states asked if there would be an official compliance assistance effort from USEPA associated with this rule. USEPA Region 2 informed the states that a determination hasn't been made as to whether there will be compliance assistance or full enforcement of the rule in 2017, with the exception of the sections that are enforceable in 2018.

Update on zika virus control activities

- Each of the Region 2 states have been actively involved with their local health departments to assist in the response or the potential response for the control of the zika virus. The health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are the lead agencies associated with the control of mosquitos and

diseases, but the states are supporting the efforts of these agencies by providing outreach and ensuring that pesticides are being used properly during any control efforts.

#### USEPA's requested structural fumigant inspections

- Linda Mauel, USEPA Region 2 Pesticide Team Leader, provided guidance to the states on USEPA's request for states to target structural fumigant applications as part of their state work plan commitments. USEPA is requesting that the states inspect fumigation applications, in cooperation with the state Air Resource programs, to verify compliance with FIFRA and the Clean Air Act. As part of this verification process there is a need to check fumigant labels to determine if the proper products are being used during applications. It is expected that many of these inspections will be conducted at or near the ports, where fumigants may be applied frequently.

#### Federal credentials

- Linda Mauel also provided an update on the federal credential requirements for states. Some of the Region 2 states have federally credentialed inspectors and others are in the process of renewing their credentials. This overview of the comprehensive training requirements was essential to meet the Region's goal of having all of the states federally credentialed.

#### State Reports

- Each USEPA Region 2 states provided an update on the activities in their pesticide programs. Puerto Rico is focusing on zika virus control activities and methyl bromide inspections and enforcement. The US Virgin Islands program is developing pesticide regulations and has been working with their department of health to provide information on zika virus control. New York State has been focusing on inspector training, working with the department of health to provide regulatory guidance on zika control, and has been providing outreach on the recently adopted WPS regulations. New Jersey has gone through a program reorganization which has created separate enforcement, inspection, and certification groups. They have also been focusing on organic grower pesticide compliance.

