

Region 2
State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Conference Call
November 1, 2016

A Pre-SFIREG conference call was held on November 1, 2016 with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 and the Region 2 State Lead Agencies (states).

The following are some of the topics discussed during the call:

Status of USEPA's proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticide Products

- Stephanie Tougas, USEPA, provided an update on USEPA's proposal at the request of the states. This update indicated that the final document will be issued in December of 2016. It will focus on protections when crops are in bloom and under contract for pollination services, with 70 active ingredients listed. USEPA will be taking additional pollinator protection steps over the next year through Risk Assessments, requests for additional data, and proposing metrics for the evaluation of state pollinator protection plans.

USEPA Region 2 Quality Assurance Recommendations

- Linda Mael, USEPA Region 2 Quality Assurance Manager, provided information to the states on USEPA's Quality Assurance Requirements. USEPA's Quality System is implemented by policies and procedures and is required when collecting environmental data to provide defensible data during any potential litigation. There is a requirement as part of the USEPA grant process for states to have a current approved Quality Management Plan (QMP) and possibly have a Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP). The QMP could be an agency QMP generic enough to manage and measure the effectiveness of the state's environmental programs. The QMPs must be approved by USEPA. If there is any environmental sampling or environmental data collection there must also be a QAPP in place for either a specific event or a generic QAPP for the program. If a programmatic QAPP is used, it will be necessary for site specific information to be documented prior to any sampling or data collection event. The QAPP must be approved by the agency Quality Assurance Officer. Linda Mael will send the Region 2 states the USEPA policies associated with Quality Assurance.

Proposed Certification and Training Rule Update

- USEPA provided a brief update on the USEPA's proposed Certification and Training Rule. This update indicated that the Rule may be finalized soon and that certain requirements of the rule have been changed allowing the states more

flexibility in their certification programs. The final rule may also give states more time to revise their existing certification and training statutes and regulations.

Worker Protection Standard Rule Implementation

- The states and USEPA discussed the implementation of the amended Worker Protection Standard Rule. USEPA described some of the materials available for outreach and training on the Pesticide Education Resource Collaborative (PERC) website. These materials include videos that have been reviewed and approved by USEPA. The states also discussed the outreach that they have conducted; the USEPA's expectations associated with the enforcement of the rule in 2017; and why the letter about the implementation of the Rule, signed by James Jones, was sent to the states.

USEPA Region 2 staffing and Responsibilities

- The states asked for an update on the roles and responsibilities of the USEPA Region 2 staff since there is a new Acting Team Leader and several new staff members in the Region. Claudia Gutierrez is the Acting Team Leader; Tara Glynn is working on the Worker Protection Standard, Certification and Training, and is the Project Officer for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Michael Brannick will be Project Officer for New York and New Jersey and is working with the tribes. Stephanie Tougas is responsible for enforcement and pollinator protection. Michel Kramer and Kristin Ridarick are responsible for enforcement.

Pesticide Applications in Aircraft Cabins

- The application of pesticides in aircraft cabins was a topic of discussion during the call. This topic is relevant to Region 2 since there are frequent flights arriving and departing from areas, both nationally and internationally, that currently are involved in mosquito control for Zika. The insecticides allowed for use in occupied aircraft cabins is limited due to USEPA PRN 96-3: Pesticide Products Used Disinsect Aircraft. Puerto Rico has expressed concern over this issue since it seems that the airlines may be currently applying pesticides to aircraft cabins potentially in contradiction to the product's label. With limited options for control and the potential need for these materials to be used, guidance will be needed from USEPA on this matter.