

Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Pesticide and Seed
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State Chemist &
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Date: December 1, 2016

To: Cary Giguere, SFIREG Chair
Amy Bamber, AAPCO/SFIREG Executive Secretary

From: Leo A. Reed, Region 5 Pre-SFIREG Chair

Subject:Region 5 Pre-SFIREG Report

State Pollinator Plans:

States have been actively working on their pollinator plans. Wisconsin has completed and published their plan.

WPS Enforcement of the new 2017 provisions

In August of 2016, EPA Regional Administrators and the directors of State lead agencies received a letter from Jim Jones, EPA Assistant Administrator. The letter outlined EPA outreach activities and emphasized the January 2, 2017 compliance date.

Region 5 States and PSEP coordinators believe that the compliance date is unrealistic and unfair to the regulated community. States have not had an adequate opportunity to train the regulated community on the new WPS provisions. Additionally, the new "How to Comply" manual was just recently completed. Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Minnesota (Illinois was not present) agreed that compliance assistance would be rendered for the new provisions, as opposed to enforcement. The states also agreed that they would enforce WPS as it existed in 2016, just as they have in the past.

Mardi Klevs, Chief, Chemicals Management Branch, Region 5 agreed to make contact with EPA headquarters and share the concerns of the States.

Zika and Mosquito Discussion

Region 5 States have seen a large increase in the number of mosquito control companies. It is believed this increase is due to the media coverage of the Zika virus. States shared the concern that there has been an increase of 25b pesticides making public health claims.

Pesticide Product Integrity Sampling Initiative

States in Region 5 will be undertaking a joint sampling initiative. States will be communicating directly with each other to share compliance information. We discussed ways that we could share information securely.

Standardized Labeling for Regulators and Users

Over the course of the last year, the work group focusing on the development the Pesticide Label Matching app has identified a number of efforts that may be helpful or necessary to make the app a truly useful and effective field tool for conducting product compliance inspection activities. Such efforts have included creating greater and more reliable remote access to real time federal product registration data (PPIS), identifying the need for a remotely accessible market label database, exploring mechanisms to facilitate a market label database development, and, most recently, exploring mechanisms to standardize label formatting and design

so as to allow for electronic comparisons of EPA accepted and market labels. The work group has learned that federal rule making would likely be required to result in the level of label standardization that might be desired for compliance inspection and other multi-stakeholder benefits. To that end, EPA Region 5 and SLAs jointly support any efforts to initiate that process as soon as possible.

Water Quality and Pollinator Issues

Wisconsin is evaluating the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides in groundwater. Neonicotinoids have been found at low concentrations in drinking water wells as well as irrigation wells. Staff will be evaluating the concentrations and distribution of neonicotinoids to determine prevalence in irrigation wells or possible irrigation water that is being used in areas with crops that would potentially affect pollinators. Through historic discussions with registrants, Wisconsin is aware that pesticide are registered that are known to leach to groundwater at low concentrations (below drinking water standards). Based on the results of this assessment, Wisconsin may request discussions with EPA on what types of risk analyses are being done to determine the secondary effects of low concentrations in groundwater, such as effects to pollinators from contaminated irrigation water or the combined effects of multiple pesticides at low concentrations (synergistic effects of the pesticide “cocktail”) in drinking water.

Region 5 Pre-SFIREG meeting dates:

Chicago, May 10-11, 2017

Chicago, November 8-9, 2017