

Region 2  
State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Conference Call  
May 2, 2017

A Pre-SFIREG conference call was held on May 2, 2017 with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 and the Region 2 States and Territories (states). The Region 2 states include New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

The following items were discussed during this call:

Update on the Certification Plan and Reporting Database (CPARD)

- Jeanne Kasai, USEPA, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, provided an update on the status of the CPARD. The contractor responsible for the CPARD system is fixing the system and the states have been asked not to use the system until further notice. There has been problems moving historical data into the updated CPARD system. When all of the repairs have been made USEPA will review the data to make sure that the state data is captured and will notify states when they can begin to use the system again.

Federal Certification and Training Regulation Update

- Nancy Fitz, USEPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, spoke about the Certification and Training regulation. This overview of the regulation covered the requirements of the regulation and how it may impact the state certification programs. She discussed the implementation strategy for the regulation, which includes the development of a checklist to determine what is needed in a state plan and forming a workgroup to support the implementation process. The states will have 3 years from the implementation date of this regulation to submit a certification plan. The implementation date for this regulation will be delayed. The 3 year time period will begin when the regulation is implemented.

Worker Protection Standard Inspections

- Carol Galloway, USEPA, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, provided an overview of WPS inspection process, including the Inspection Manual. This overview discussed the requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 inspections and the possibility of doing a pilot program to determine if “focused” WPS inspections should be considered by USEPA. In addition, she requested that the states provide feedback on the WPS Inspection Manual and the regulation if any issues or problems are encountered during the inspection process.

## EPA's Final Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products

- Stephanie Tougas, USEPA, Region 2 Pesticide Team, updated the states on EPA's Final Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products. This policy was finalized on January 12, 2017. The Policy has been modified since EPA's Proposal to Protect Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides was originally published for public comment. A major change from the Proposal to the Policy is the number of pesticides covered by the Policy, which has been reduced to 43. This Policy applies to pesticide applications when crops are in bloom and a contract exists for pollination services. It will require pesticide registrants to amend their labels to include pollinator protection language for certain active ingredients and use patterns.

## Discussion on the EPA Proposed Budget

- Audrey Moore, USEPA, Region 2 Pesticide Team Leader, led a discussion on the anticipated funding levels associated with the 2017 federal fiscal year. There is a chance that the funding levels associated with the state grants will be reduced from the previous year's funding level. In order to meet the May 12, 2017 grant application deadline, the Region 2 states agreed that last year's amounts should be placed in the grant applications. It is anticipated that the grant applications will need to be modified, as well as, state work plan commitments to USEPA, once the final funding levels are approved.