

Region 9
Pre-SFIREG Meeting
October 25, 2018

In Attendance (by teleconference):

Bret Allen (Nevada), John Inouye (California), Mary Grisier (EPA Region 9), Patti TenBrook (EPA Region 9), Norman Calero (Region 9), Tualagi Gaoteote (American Samoa), Faamamata Meredith (American Samoa), Fabiola Estrada (EPA – LA), Allen Demorest, (EPA Region 9), Katy Wilcoxon (EPA Region 9), Betwin Alokoa (Guam), John McHugh (Hawaii)

1. Nevada (Bret Allen and Charles Moses)
 - Need to initiate a 24-C program to support rapidly growing Cannabis industries in the States. This applies to all forms of cannabis cultivation including, industrial, medical, and recreational cannabis uses. Growing concern that every State is making their own cannabis regulatory scheme. In all instances the regulations that are devised do not comport with FIFRA.
 - Should be able to come up with a list of products that are not prohibited to review as a start.
 - EPA will not do any health risk assessments for cannabis as long as it is illegal at the Federal level.
 - Industrial hemp is making some progress (at least for that portion that is not associated with FIFRA).
 - California is doing a study to determine consumption (how much is smoked, ingested).
2. Hawaii (John McHugh)
 - Retention of enforcement staff has been a challenge. However, since this meeting Hawaii has hired another enforcement inspector on Oahu so that we are currently down only 1 inspector.
3. Pacific Islands/Guam (Betwin Alokoa)
 - Chlorine for drinking water is an issue. Drinking water chlorination is moving away from chlorine gas to other options, e.g. sodium and/or calcium hypochlorite. Chlorine gas is a dangerous material whereas other available options for chlorine treatment are much safer and are not, generally, Restricted Use Pesticides.
 - The label language on the chlorine tablets are limited to a range of 0.2 ppm to 0.6 ppm chlorine but drinking water treatment requires a higher level of chlorination. To achieve that higher level of chlorination more tablets than allowed by the label are required. However, to use more than that amount allowed by the label would violate the label.
 - Pesticide Safety Education Program – funding from EPA Region 9: How can we get PESP training with university help for initial certification? Arizona has had no Pesticide Coordinator for years, same for Hawaii. Suggestion that manufacturers may have to step up to assist with this.
4. Dicamba on Soybeans

This has not been an issue within Region 9 due to the fact that there is no significant soybean production in any of the States and locations within Region 9.

It was agreed that the issue that the EPA Region 9 rep (John McHugh, Hawaii) SFIREG rep will bring the issue of pesticide registration on cannabis forward at the SFIREG meeting in December.