

**Future of POINTS (Pesticides of Interest National Tracking System) and Water Quality Reporting
SFIREG Environmental Quality Issues Working Committee White Paper Follow-up.**

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Background:

The Environmental Quality Issues (EQI) Working Committee presented a white paper, dated May 1, 2019 v. 2.0 to EPA regarding proposed issues with the POINTS database and made recommendations regarding potential improvements and additional training for users. Use of the POINTS database will be discontinued, in any capacity, for reporting purposes to EPA as part of a cooperative agreement with states. Funding by EPA for the database will be discontinued beginning fiscal year 2022.

EQI Committee Recommendations:

EPA clarified its long-term plan for POINTS funding and water quality reporting, as was recommended in the white paper. Because the database will be discontinued, the ideas and recommendations in the POINTS White Paper will not advance or be implemented as recommended. EQI would like to move the POINTS white paper out of the EQI committee and back to the full SFIREG committee to discuss the white paper's disposition. While the white paper may have reached its conclusion, the EQI committee remains committed to the data that is housed in the POINTS database and will continue to work with EPA, states or other interested parties to either maintain the POINTS database through non-EPA funding or provide the data from POINTS to the states. In the conclusion of the POINTS white paper it states, "It is important that POINTS continue, or that EPA develops an equally functional replacement program." EQI remains committed to water quality data and state's water programs and will try to provide meaningful feedback to EPA, in conjunction with SFIREG and states, for the 2022-2025 cooperative agreement, which removes POINTS as an option for data collection while attempting to replace the POINTS database with different routes of water quality data entry. Also stated in the conclusion of the white paper, "States have invested valuable time and resources into POINTS. Some states have incorporated POINTS into their decision-making process and water quality program goals. Losing POINTS without an adequate replacement system would be a step backward in the national effort to monitor and improve water quality. It is essential to take steps to ensure the continuation of this quality program," and EQI will continue to endeavor moving the national effort to monitor and improve water quality forward.