

EPA Region 9 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

Pre-SFIREG Meeting Date: April 27, 2021 at 3:00 pm PST

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Report Prepared By: Bret Allen (NV) – Region 9 SFIREG Representative

In Attendance: Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, Navajo Nation, American Samoa, and EPA Region 9

During the meeting, we discussed committee appointment timeframes and rotating the R9 representative. It was determined that I will fulfill the 3-year commitment and rotate in January 2022.

For the pre-SFIREG meeting, I was asked to receive feedback from states, islands, and tribes on certain potential issues; their responses are below.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI):

- No issue papers.
- Cooperative Agreement: Looking into initiating an EPA funded special project.
- C&T plan: Still reviewing and making revisions per EPA. Working out discrepancy language regarding non-certified applicators and commercial applicators who use RUPs and general use products.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: There has been an increase in individuals becoming certified to conduct sanitizer and disinfectant services.
- 24(c) and 25(a) EPA and state registration processes: Misbrand products are still an issue; they are active in addressing this through market inspections. They are finalizing and preparing to publish an informational video for 5th graders with the goal of explaining the differences between sanitizers and disinfectants.

Arizona:

- No issue papers.
- Paraquat topics, regulation, and education: Receiving a lot of questions regarding the ability to have the exam in Spanish. AZ Dept. of Ag is sharing the message that this will not be available because the applicators need to read and understand the English written label.
- C&T plan: Working with R9 on edits.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: Active with inspections. Seeing a lot of disinfectant product registration requests (a lot of label reviews). During the meeting, AZ was asked if they will have to regulate companies who preform sanitizing services. The answer is no but there might be a need to address this when it comes to disinfectant applications in schools.

- AZ is looking into complaints that are submitted to the Department.

California:

- No issue papers at this time.
- Paraquat topics, regulation, and education: There is an uptick in individuals wanting to become certified for this. A lot of questions regarding the type of license applicable for paraquat applications.
- C&T plan: Working very closely with EPA on the updates/edits. It is a major rule-making package for CA. Submitted to EPA on time and they received initial approval.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: Active in educating a lot of businesses regarding the types of services that need to be licensed. Trying to work through investigations with current state restrictions.
- PFAS/PFOS: There is a vector control product called Anvil. EPA is conducting an investigation regarding PFAS contaminates that possibly come from the container of this product. Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is ready and able to assist with laboratory support.
- Seed Treatment (possible issue paper in the future): CA is looking at ground and surface water data to determine if there is a correlation between contamination and treated seeds. There has been a lot of interest in the proper disposal of treated seeds and how it might affect water quality.

Guam:

- No issue paper at this time.
- COVID-19: Trying to get certified applicators renewed while dealing with current restrictions.
- Very busy in dealing with misbranded microbials.

Nevada:

- 24(c) and 25(a) EPA and state registration processes: NV latest one is Grignard Pure. They submitted their application, NDA reviewed and submitted to EPA.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: NV is not having issues. We are denying some labels that are not complete, but no big issues.
- EPA Credential issues and survey: Staying on top of annual training. Our only issue: We could not get one of our credentials printed because EPA staff did not have access to printer at the office. Everything seems to be going fine.
- Paraquat topics, regulation, and education: NV still not able to get out and do live trainings (only virtually), so I am not getting the personal interactions with growers that I used to. This means that the opportunity for them to communicate these issues to me to their comfort level is not there. Hoping this will change in the fall.

- C&T Plan approval processes: Working with Region 9 on final edits/comments; R9 sending to Headquarters in early May.
- Pollinators and managed pollinator use of pesticides: A NV Assemblywoman introduced a bill that would make neonicotinoids restricted-use in NV and banned on NV state lands. The bill fell through (next attempt would be 2023 during the next NV legislative session).

American Samoa:

- No issue papers at this time.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: Working on disseminating information from EPA on disinfectants.
- C&T plan: Working with R9 on finalizing their state plan.
- Paraquat topics, regulation, and education: Paraquat cannot be imported at this time. This is becoming an issue because it is the only RUP that growers on the island rely on.

Navajo Nation:

- Dicamba and paraquat not used in this region.
- C&T plan: Revisiting the earlier idea of adopting EPA's regulations as their plan. The reason is because they want to streamline current processes and prepare a new tribal ordinance.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: Getting back to field work.

Hawaii:

- Pet collar issues, cases, and reporting to EPA; including products with insecticides such as flumethrin and imidacloprid: No poisoning but a lot of inquiries about this.
- COVID-19 EPA response and registration topics for disinfectants, and devices: There are a lot of misbranded disinfectant products. Labels are missing registrant addresses and EPA Reg. numbers and EST. numbers are buried in the label rather than being on the cover. In addition, registrants are not providing 100% of the information to registration staff. An influx of registration requests is occurring for disinfectant products, especially wipes. Side note: There is a Section 18 product being reviewed for the treatment of coffee leaf rot.
- EPA Credential issues and survey: 2 inspectors became credentialed.
- Paraquat and dicamba are not being used in Hawaii.
- C&T plan: At EPA Headquarters.