

Region 1 New England
Pre-SFIREG May 7, 2025
Meeting Report

The Region 1 New England pre-SFIREG meeting was held both on-line and in-person at the United States Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory office in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, on May 7, 2025, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Region 1 - New England States:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Pre-SFIREG Attendance:

Connecticut: Diane Jorsey; Zachary Donais

Maine: Alexander Peacock; Doug Van Hoewyk

Massachusetts: Taryn LaScola; Hotze Wiinja

New Hampshire: David Rousseau

Rhode Island: Howard Cook

Vermont: Bethany Creaser; David Huber

EPA: Maya Babu, Kirsten Stemmler, Andrea Szylvian, Claire Willscher

A. Agenda Item: National Topics Roundtable:

States reviewed the following topics suggested by SFIREG leadership for national consideration:

- 1. EPA Label Amendment Cover/Acceptance Letters** – General consensus to move away from instructions on acceptance letters with general concern relative to enforcement as enforcement is central to the actual label.
- 2. General use pesticides that are reclassified to RUP** – After review and discussion there may be a need to improve communicating re-classification activity, specifically, reclassification of a general use pesticide to a restricted use pesticide. In discussion, in addition to certification regulations elevating in response to a pesticide re-classification, there are other activities that may be evoked, such as disposal and training.
- 3. Pesticide Registration Decisions** – Length of time for federal review concern; inquiry as to status of mancozeb, captan, and final decision on rodenticide.
- 4. Mosquito control back-pack mist blowers** – Continuing review supported. States noting that complaints continue to be received relative to mosquito treatments.
- 5. ESA Workplan and Strategy Implementation** – Continuing discussion point; state's identify different stages of outreach; implementation guidance requested.
- 6. Bulletins Live Two (BLT)** – Question relative to how Pesticide Use Limitation Areas are defined; what are on-going efforts to refine delineations?
- 7. Implementation of the Final Biological Opinion on Carbaryl** – States encouraged to submit concerns as identified.

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- 8. Feed-through pesticides** – States encouraged to identify any issues with specific products. No immediate concerns were noted.
- 9. New and Ongoing Issues** – Ongoing issues supported; no suggestion for new white papers or issue papers.
 - a. Rodenticide** – In depth discussion of rodenticide regulatory action at state-level and nationwide. An EPA summary of PID and ESI to address rodenticides and anticipated additional actions would be helpful.

B. EPA Region 1 Updates:

Kirsten Stemmler US EPA, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) Enforcement update provided; import review noted.

Claire Willscher, US EPA, Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division (LCARD):

- Certification and Training efforts by states noted
- Cooperative Agreement for FFY26 through 29 awaiting signature
- Appendix 12, Environmental Justice Activities Within FIFRA Program Areas, and Appendix 13, Federal Civil Rights Information and Responsibilities, removed from Cooperative Agreement Guidance.
- State funding allocations not released at this point.

C. State-by-State Report Out – Changes (revocation, suspension, removal due to non-compliance) in Applicator Certification Status

State reports on certification revocation or criminal pesticide incident relative to state-to-state reciprocity or interstate activity.

D. Agenda Item: State-by-state Information for SFIREG

Massachusetts, Taryn LaScola

- Glyphosate Massachusetts Glyphosate Commission Report available
- Neonic Treated Seeds Restrictions Elevated
- Rodenticide – Under review; project contracted with consultant for scientific review underway
- On-line Exams and Examinee Protocol noted

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Connecticut, Diane Jorsey

- Staffing update, two vacancies noted
- Neonic elevated restrictions noted
- Rodenticide elevated restrictions noted

Rhode Island, Howard Cook

- Staffing update
- On-line portal now live

Maine, Alexander Peacock

- Rodenticide regulations noted (notification and IPM requirement)
- Neonic elevated restrictions noted (emergency use; ornamental and turf limitations; alternatives to treated seed study)
- Spruce Bud Worm Pressure, aerial treatment likely, approximately 300,000 acres, risk assessment underway
- Staffing update
- Proposal to revise state PFAS definition
- Penalty adjustment to increase fines

Vermont, David Huber and Bethany Creaser

- Pesticide Safety Education Program
- On-line exam
- Rodenticide
- Ecommerce as cooperative agreement picklist item
- Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials inspector training information
- Nuisance Bill, Right-to-Farm noted
- Neonic elevated restrictions noted and ban on treated seed scheduled for 2029
- Aerial
- Federal Cases

New Hampshire, David Rousseau

- Staffing update
- Fee Increase proposal for pesticide license and product registration
- Northeast Tri-agency discussion, interest noted in state, federal, pesticide safety education program activity
- Rodenticide

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Agenda Item: Issues for Full SFIREG Review

No new issue papers recommended at this time.

Rodenticide: Inquiry as to status of PID, will a final decision be issued? Summary of PID and ESI related effort requested.

Agenda Item: Wrap Up

Fall 2025 Region 1 pre-SFIREG meeting scheduled for November 5th to be held at the office of New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, 1 Granite Place Suite 211, Concord, New Hampshire, to begin at 9:30 a.m.