

EPA Region 5 Pre-SFIREG Spring 2026 Meeting Report

Meeting Dates: April 27th and 28th, 2026

Meeting Location: St Paul, MN with Microsoft Teams Meeting teleconference

Report Prepared By: Ryan Berzinski (WI) – Region 5 SFIREG Representative

1. Endangered Species Act

- States would like to see a ListServ for BLT updates that is open to SLAs, PSEPs, and industry
- States have concerns that a failure to use identical language across product labels, BLT, PALM, etc. will create misinterpretations and enforcement issues.
- There is interest from Region 5 SLAs regarding the offset program being examined in Region 3.

2. Dicamba OTT

- Different levels of understanding and implementation of NRCS uses and industry interpretations of their terminology commercially compared to use in things like conservation programs. Things like what constitutes a buffer or break, similar to the concern for ESA.
- There are concerns in reporting variations between states and regions on complaints and investigations.
- Difficulties in obtaining reliable, defensible weather data for specific applications creates uncertainty regarding enforcement. NOAA stations are spread apart widely, and their information is not always available or historically consistent. Other sources do not always provide all requisite information, and their validity can be called into question. Relying on applicator instrumentation (anemometers or other devices) is challenging without a picture or screen capture. Often simply taking their word for it.
- The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, webmdss.com, mrcc.prudue.edu, NOAA, mesonet.agron.iastate.edu, ncdc.noaa.gov are some sources used.

3. C&T Plan Implementation and Obstacles

- No significant obstacles encountered. Minor issues are being addressed with the Regional Technical Contact overseeing plans and changes.

4. Unmanned Systems

- Part 108 requirements will supersede any state requirements that states have written that include parts 107 and 137.
- Continued variations in how each state will deal with certification category. Some continue inclusion with aerial, some as a separate category.

5. State Legislation

- An Illinois bill is proposing a 72-hour notification to residents prior to agricultural applications.

6. Formulation Sampling/Lab Considerations

- State lab concerns regarding workload, aging equipment maintenance and capabilities, and the usefulness of sampling if methodologies are outdated and unenforceable.
 - If there is an overarching strategy to formulation sampling, it is unclear. There are challenges for some states collecting samples during PEIs, and the lack of a coherent national strategy creates challenges for states to plan sample collection over time. If this is becoming essentially a surveillance sampling program, and is it worth continuing? What might be expected in the future with the methodology challenges?
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7. SLNs

- The removal of expiration dates federally will likely still result in some states applying an expiration date. This may vary by state, product, and use, based on risks. There is a level of reluctance to remove expiration dates overall because the de facto result is a permanent Special Local Needs with potential longer-term issues for SLAs.
- Some SLNs that currently combined multiple Special Local Needs may be separated out based on specific crop groups.

8. Registration

- No official state comments to PR 98-10.

9. Treated Seed

- No significant change since the last meeting. There is a continued focus from non-governmental organizations on neonicotinoid concerns, but no legislation or policy is currently proposed.

10. Pesticides in Water Calculator Training

- States are interested in PWC training.

11. New World Screwworm

- Monitoring, but no specific actions.