

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
9/16/15
Final Call Notes

Welcome/Introductions

Fred Corey - Aroostook Band of Micmac, Eric Gjevre - Couer de Alene Tribe, Nina Hapner, Willie Keenan, Less Benedict, Jody LaFriniere, Larry Scrapper, Jim Mossett, Milo, Ralph Morris, Irv Provost, Lorinda Sam - Ak Chin, Cindy Wire - EPA, Dan Helfgott - EPA, Allan Demorest - EPA, Carol Galloway - EPA, Don Lott - EPA, Jonathan Binder - EPA

New OPP Tribal Coordinator Welcome and Introductions (Cindy Wire)

- New Tribal Coordinator out of Region 9 Office.
- In Region 9, but an OPP employee. Not full time as Tribal Coordinator
- 20 years experience in pesticides, first 6 in Washington State. 10 years in Region 10 and Region 9. Last 2 years worked for Dan in OPP but remotely placed in Region 9.
- States, commodity groups, researchers, and a myriad of other areas.
- Focus for last 2 years has been focused with the states.
- 30% of time expected to be spent on TPPC. Right now more than that because of the grant award. Will see how that works right now.

When Mary Powell left, Dan wasn't given hiring authority to replace her. OPP hasn't been able to hire now for quite some time. Cindy will be the lead and point of contact but others will be helping out, i.e. Gabriella and Alan.

EPA Updates (Cindy, Dan, Carol, Gabriella, Alan, et. al.)

OPP

- TPPC award status - in the process of having the grant specialist finalize the award. There have been several questions that came up and anticipate it to be finalized by the end of this week. There is then a 5 day period where it had to be announced to Congress before it can be officially awarded. Anticipate the October 1 deadline will still be made or sooner. Understand in this gap period and not able to physically announce the award until this is finished.
- Tribal Pollinator Protection Training - over 50 people have applied for the course and will begin the selection criteria, set to 35 people. Will consider if there is more than one attendee, look at job descriptions to see if they are involved in pesticides or pollinator protection, cooperative agreement tribes have first choice, regional distribution, etc. In Spokane, WA, November 17-19, 2015.

OECA

- Worker Protection Standards Dashboard is close to having a working model ready to be viewed. It should be ready for the TPPC Fall Meeting (if have).
- Could be done at one of the Conference Calls in a webinar. It may be okay. Will evaluate having it as a potentially separate call.
- Will there be a WPS training? There is one set up in December and have 3-4 tribes attending (PREP course). We will need to discuss if want a separate one for Tribes or do it during a TPPC meeting. Is the December Training closed? Or is it still open? Know the date was changed. Contact Dea Zimmerman (312-353-6344 or zimmerman.dea@epa.gov) for further information. All EPA folks can be contacted at email in the following manner: last name.first name@epa.gov.

OECA Tribal Pesticide Enforcement Initiative (Don Lott, Associate Director, Waste & Chemical Enforcement Division) (scheduled for 1:30 PM EDT)

- OECA and OPP both issue NPM Guidance. In the past it has been an annual document, but for 16 and 17 it will be a 2 year cycle document.
- It was sent out to States and Tribes last year for review and comments.
- The feedback has been incorporated.
- The guidance will be directing the regions.
- The OPP and OA has had concerns over WPS and how being implemented nationwide. States implement this under primacy, except one state. EPA implements this on Tribal Lands and one state.
- Will be looking at product registration - proper labeling and sold and distributed in a compliant manner.
- Will be looking at how EPA is directly implementing - in the NPM put in to have EPA to conduct federal inspections in the State of Wyoming and on Tribal Lands. There isn't a large contingency of EPA federal inspectors, so won't be swarming over tribal lands.
- Expect contact from Regional EPA project officers.
- Expect for FY 16, some inspections will be done, but more inspections on Tribal Lands will be done in FY 17.
- Regions have been doing inspections mainly on product distribution and producer establishments.
- Question: Who has federal inspectors? Have one or two inspectors in each Regional Office. Some have more inspectors than others. Some of the credentialed inspectors have not done WPS so will need some training. The inspections will focus on WP compliance - what kind of pesticides using? Have WPS on label and complying? What Tier? **(Missed some of this information because of phone call)**
- State inspectors coming on to Tribal Lands is being left up to the Tribes. Because of primacy, the state can conduct use inspections on own lands without federal credentials.
- The federal inspectors on Tribal Lands will be Regional EPA federal inspectors. Requested that a memo or some documentation is provided to tribes. Noted that if it follows the EPA Indian Policy, then it shouldn't be a problem.
- This applies to all Tribes. Where there isn't a cooperative agreement, will not be able to work within that framework, but will engage and discuss with them to ensure that WPS is protected.
- When the written communication is developed, asked to share it with Cindy Wire.
- Noted this seems to be answering some of the questions raised by Tribes and their concerns about pesticide being used by other agencies or with C&T (EPA-issued Tribal applicator credential) when they don't allow the use of pesticides. Hope the information that comes from this assists with tribes demonstrating their needs.

PREP Steering Committee Update (Fred)

- Has invited tribal participation in the training development.
- In the last conference call, questions came up on the roles and responsibilities of a member of the committee. TPPC hasn't designated a member yet and has asked Dea to attend the next TPPC Executive Conference Call.

Bedbug Issue Paper Follow-up Questions (see attached message)

- Questions asked by Dan Helfgott: In order to help us better understand the extent of the problem in Indian country, it would help if we had a better idea of the number of tribes that are struggling with bed bug infestation in tribal housing as well as the severity of the infestations the tribes are experiencing (is the infestation considered light, moderate or severe?). We would appreciate any information along these lines that you can provide. Tribes can send their information to Dan.

- Some tribes talk with their Housing Departments and have a good idea for tribal homes, but the private homes, within reservation lands, that don't qualify for the funding then it is hard to obtain funding to combat the situation - are there any funds for them?
- Primary concern for many Tribes is the need for resources to implement preventative measures (it seems).
- Put this on the next call.
- Irv and Nina have a call to talk about questions for a survey/assessment by Friday this week.

Fall Planning Meeting Discussion (All)

- Early November dates don't look good because the agreement with the new facilitator won't be signed until the end of September/beginning of October.
- End of November? Too close to the PREP Training scheduled for the first week in December.
- Potential Dates: Week of January 11th, 2016. Then have the next meeting with the WRPM? It would give 5 months between meetings. Location? January meeting in Phoenix area. Maybe Ak-Chin can host(?) the May meeting in DC.

Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)

- Tribal Pesticide Inspector Training, February (1st or 2nd week) at Ak-Chin Community - cover WPS, Pollinator Protection.

Next TPPC Conference Call (Wednesday, October 21st 2015, 1-3 p.m. EDT)