

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council – Full Council Meeting
Ak-Chin Indian Community, Maricopa, AZ, and Virtual
Meeting Notes
DAY ONE, Tuesday, October 14th**

Attendees (for the overall three-day meeting)

Tribes (25)

Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Andrew Sonnier, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation
Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Cricket Herrera, Yakama Nation
Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation
Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
Dave Lewis, Yavapai Apache Nation
Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
Jaclyn Listo, Tohono O'odham Nation
Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Joseph Picotte Jr, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Katlyn Santos, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
Ryan Milazzo, Colorado River Indian Tribes
Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation
Tabitha Langston, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
Tison Gill, Gila River Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (4)

Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts

EPA (11)

Bryan Irwin, EPA Region 6
Elizabeth Vizard, EPA/OCSPP

Emma Cross, EPA/OECA
Kyle Kunkler, EPA/OPP
Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
Matt Weiner, EPA/OCSP
Michael Bauman, EPA/OECA
Michael Mendelsohn, EPA/OPP
Nancy Beck, EPA/OCSP
Natalie Bray, EPA/OPP
Nicole Marks, EPA/OCSP

Other (5)

Chelsey Begay, South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center
John Pitcock, ASPCRO
Kelly Friend, AAPCO
Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Meredith Cocks, National Pesticide Information Center
Steve Dwinell, SFIREG

Traditional Opening Ceremony/Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Ak-Chin Indian Community

- Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Ak-Chin Indian Community shared opening remarks.
- Chairman Lopez shared some history about their community, noting they have a little under 1,400 enrolled members in their community. They had around 43,000 acres of land when the reservation was established in 1912, but it was significantly reduced to half the size soon after. With the help of the profits from gaming, they have been able to start purchasing their original lands back, and they are in the process of rebuilding.

Welcome and TPPC Opening Remarks

Jasmine welcomed attendees to the TPPC's Fall meeting, and spoke about a few issues the TPPC has been working on or following this year.

EPA Welcome Remarks and Q&A with Nancy Beck, OCSP Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

Nancy Beck, EPA, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSP) spoke about the following:

- Administrator Zeldin has put forward five pillars, 2 of which are particularly relevant to TPPC.
 - Pillar one is clean air, land, and water for every American. It focuses on reducing toxic emissions in the air, cleaning up hazardous waste sites, while also fostering economic growth for families across the country. And this is going to improve the quality of our crops and create the first line of defense for food security and availability.
 - Pillar three is permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and cross-agency partnerships. This pillar involves working closely with our state, local, and tribal officials and federal partners to ensure certainty, but also to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.

- In the pesticide space, particularly related to permits, they are trying to make changes to decrease the timelines and the backlog of pesticide actions that they have under review. This means finding more efficient ways to review new submissions and providing greater transparency about how they are meeting all their deadlines.
- Some new technologies they are engaging with include drones and smart spray technologies that can improve crop yields and efficiency. They are working with a wide variety of stakeholders to better understand new technologies and ways that they can facilitate innovation. As they work to help facilitate new technologies to market, they have to make sure they are in compliance with their statutory obligations, one example being the Endangered Species Act.
- She discussed the Pesticide App for Label Mitigation (PALM) tool, which was developed to help with the implementation of the insecticide strategy. There is also the EPA Bulletin Live 2 (BLT) tool, which was developed to provide information on geographically specific pesticide use limitations. They are also working on videos and training materials to help with the implementation.
- Regarding the Worker Protection Standards and the application exclusion zone, they are continuing to provide education and training on the regulations.
- Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program: requirement for all pesticide chemicals under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA). They are working on tools for developing approaches to screen for estrogen, androgen, and potentially even thyroid effects using fewer animals.
- Make American Healthy Again: EPA, along with USDA and NIH, are tagged to develop an evaluation framework for cumulative exposure across chemical classes but also focusing on pesticides.
- They will continue to prioritize research and programs to help growers adopt precision agricultural techniques and to help decrease pesticide volumes.

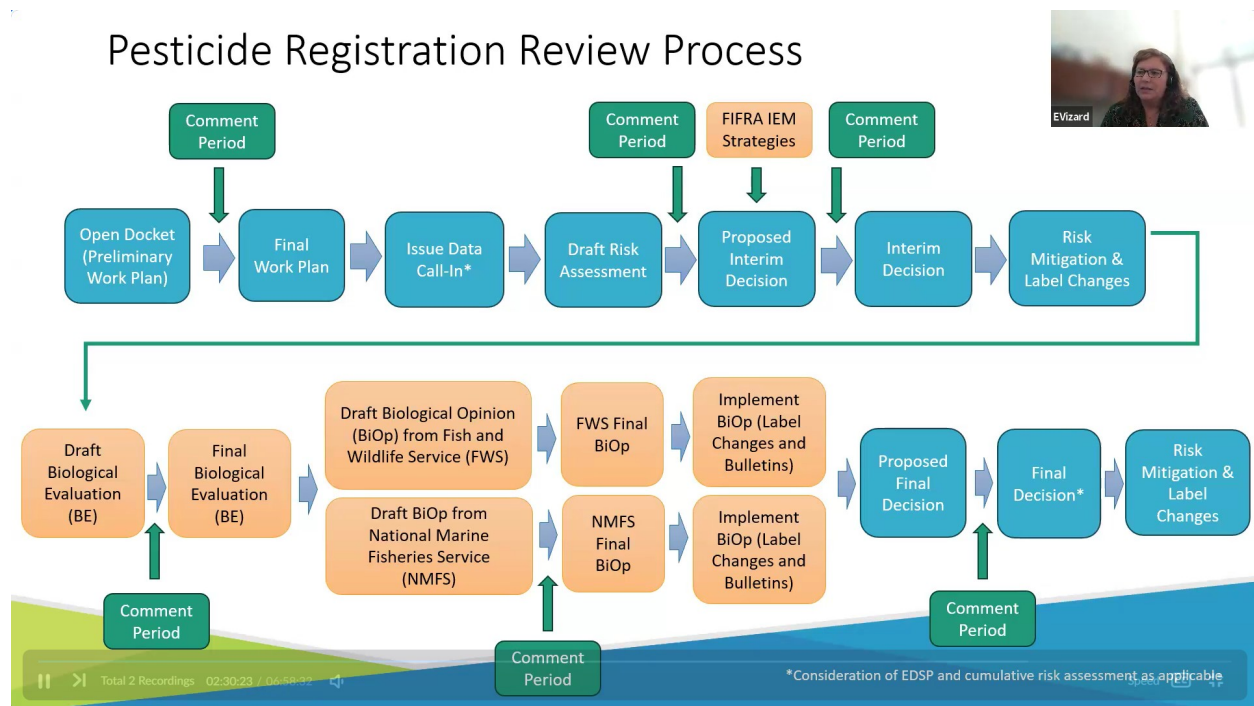
Open Dialog with OCSPP Leadership

- Nina shared TPPC concerns about AI usage as it related to quality assurance that will be used. Nancy shared that they are not close to using the AI tool for exposure. Jasmine asked about a more secure tool could than an open google one that is used for AI. The EPA AI tools are different than the public tools available, they are being built by EPA.
- Nina shared concern about label language question and the importance of continuing to work together on the Endangered Species Act.
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, shared her concern about cumulative assessments; education about the chemicals would be helpful across chemical assessments.
- OCSPP wants to understand what TPPC's interests are and how we can build in more touch points to make sure they are working with TPPC the best and continue to work on collaboration and outreach.

- Jasmine asked Emma Cross, EPA/OECA, if there was any progress on TPPC being able to access data from the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) database, and she will prepare something for the March conference meeting to present.

EPA Pesticide Program and Enforcement Updates

- Liz Vizard, OCSPP Office of Pesticide Programs Deputy Director, presented on Administrator Zeldin's two pillars that are relevant to TPPC:
 - Pillar 1: Clean air, land, and water
 - Pillar 3: Permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and cross-agency partnership
- Liz spoke about how the backlog of work is an ongoing issue, but the non-PRIA (Pesticide Registration Improvement Act) backlog has decreased, the Registration Division is caught up on notifications and is working on amendments, and the PRIA backlog has decreased as well. Reducing the backlog is a major priority of this division.
- Liz mentioned they are beginning to roll out a new program called MyPest. This allows registrants of pesticide products the ability to monitor the status of their pesticide registration submissions in real-time.
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation, asked if there is a way to get a tribe-specific login for MyPest so they can track it as well. They will make a note of this to follow up.
- The FY 2023 Omnibus set a new deadline of October 1, 2026, for completing the first phase of pesticide registration review.
- Pesticide Registration Review Process flowchart:



- Insecticide Strategy (IS): This is going to be a slow process of using the specific strategies and meeting the Endangered Species Act requirements together, and looking at the labels to see if changes are needed or not.
- There are a few new product registration highlights from the year including: isocycloseram, vadesca, florypicoxamid, and veratrine.
- Bilingual labeling: They are working on a rolling schedule from December 2025 to 2030 with translations for the most hazardous and toxic pesticide products required first.
- Emma Cross, OECA/Office of Compliance spoke about several things they have worked on involving tribal coordination during FY2025: Cooperative Agreement Guidance, Tribal PIRT (Pesticide Inspector Residential Training), Tribal Enforcement Process Q&A update, and WPS (Worker Protection Standards) Inspection Manual.
 - Emma discussed the FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance: No substantive changes, removed content that did not align with Administration priorities or Executive Orders, and updated EPA water and quality monitoring data contacts. This will remain in effect until EPA issues updated guidance.
 - Tribal PIRT in July 2025: Topics covered included PPE (personal protective equipment) demonstration, ESA overview, rodenticides registration and labels, QAPPs, and border inspections.
 - Planned projects: The updated WPS Inspection Manual is planned for beginning of FY26, FIFRA Inspection Manual in '26, and FY26 PIRT courses with tentative dates and topics (WPS March 2026, ESA Inspector Guidance Workshop Spring 2026, Ag Use Concerns July 2026, and Inspector Basics October 2026).

EPA Regions Tribal Pesticide Update Bryan Irwin, EPA/Region 6, Tribal Pesticides Sub-lead

Bryan Irwin, EPA/Region 6 Project Officer ITEC, Regional Tribal Pesticide Sub-Lead provided an update on what the EPA Regions are doing as it relates to tribal pesticides:

- Region 1 updates: Mi'kmaq Nation—2025 Tribal Awareness of Pest Management, program highlight to build native plant nursery.
- Region 2 updates: St Regis Mohawk Tribe is doing significant pollinator-related work, and growing their enforcement program, including a new inspector who has attended PREP (Pesticide Regulatory Education Program) and PIRT courses. Seneca Nation is developing programmatic capacity, they created an application permitting and tracking system, and they plan to request pesticide funding during the next grant cycle for further development of their program.
- Region 3 updates: No new interactions with any of these tribes to report.
- Region 4 updates: The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians Florida received a \$42,000 Pesticide Grant for FY 26 and plan to continue their efforts to remove the Brazilian Peppertree growing along the fence line within the cattle pastures and to control of invasive population of water lettuce.

- Region 5 updates: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is gathering information from the community and tribal departments about the pest pressures and pest management practices to inform future outreach and assess the priority level of pesticides. White Earth Nation is hiring a new Pesticide Coordinator to perform federal and tribal inspections, and they continue to provide pesticide outreach. Additionally, Region 5 staff can provide pesticide-specific technical support as needed, and a pilot project has been funded to sample pesticides in wild rice and surface water on White Earth Tribal Lands. Region 5 processed 34 federal certification applications.
- Region 6 updates: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma worked with Tribal Alliance for Pollinators to do a prescribed burn on the pollinator garden at Wheelock Academy Historical Site, and they continue to do outreach at in person events and through social media. EPA worked with Oklahoma State University Extension and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to present worker protection standards and pesticide topics for continuing education credit. Region 6 has 73 applicators certified to apply RUPs (restricted use pesticides). Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) continues with pollinator educational outreach and assisted 22 Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico and Texas. Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) had a conference in August 2025, and they also worked with EPA Region 6 on a pollinator outreach project, "Bertie the Bee".
- Region 7 updates: Region 7 Indian Country Pesticide Applicator Certification Coordinator delivered a training to Omaha and Winnebago Environmental Protection Department staff members in June 2025. In July 2025 Region 7 LCRD (Land, Chemicals & Redevelopment Division) staff attended the Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting (RTOC) to promote Pesticide Circuit Rider Program implementation. Lastly, in July 2025, Omaha/Winnebago Aerial Applicator Use Observations were conducted. During this observation period, 9 inspections were conducted, and 19 Indian Country Pesticide Applicator Certification Applications were received.
- Region 8 updates: LCRD approved Certification Applicator Plans for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Three Affiliated Tribes/MHA Nation. LCRD presented on Integrated Pest Management and oversaw 1,610 federally certified commercial and private applicators in the R8 database. ECAD (Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division) onboarded 5 new tribal inspectors, developed a FIFRA Misuse Tip Form, and is planning FIFRA 101 Training for all new tribal inspectors to attend in Spring FY 26.
- Region 9 updates: In June 2025, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), Salt River Maricopa Indian Community, and the University of Arizona, hosted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Training for Tribes. There were two RTOC sessions held in 2025 and EPA R9 has processed 53 Federal pesticide applicator certifications or renewals in FY 25.
- Region 10 updates: Coeur d'Alene Circuit Rider Program and Yakama Nation Pesticide Program committed to 15 inspections. There are 172 certified applicators in R10 Indian Country. Region 10 visited Umatilla Reservation in Oregon to discuss pesticide applicator certification issues and current pesticide concerns. The Columbia Grain, Inc Penalty Action was \$149, 793. This was based on an inspection by Coeur d'Alene Circuit Rider Eric Gjevre, and the EPA alleged Columbia Grain misused a restricted use pesticide on 23 occasions.

Ak-Chin Indian Community's Pesticide Program Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Theodore Puetz is the Pesticide Control Specialist for Ak-Chin Indian Community and he spoke about the following:

- There are four big areas of their program that are funded by grants: water quality, air quality, environmental, and pesticides.
- Goals: improve occupational protections, reduce acute occupational pesticide exposures and incidents, and reduce pesticide exposures in the community environment
- In November of 2024, they conducted a mandatory training program Pesticide, Flammable, and Chemical training.
- Their Pesticide Control Ordinance is over 12 years old, and it is in the process of being updated.
- WPS is a major part of what they do to make sure the employees out in the field understand what's being treated and when. All new farm employees do not enter the field until they have completed the new hire training. There is also an annual refresher training.
- From a reporting standpoint, they get a 1080 report.
- In terms of monitoring enforcement/compliance assistance, they are responsible for the non-agricultural inspections which include 35 stakeholders. Institutional includes hotels, retail, clinic, golf, and public works. They want to raise the level of awareness so they can make themselves and everyone around them safer. The EPA registration and establishment number must be on the container label. Pesticide devices, such as bed bug rapid test, are not required to have a registration number, but they must have an establishment number.
- They are currently initiating the review process for updating 2025-2026 Pesticide Control Ordinance. They want everyone to be ready and prepared and to make sure they have a mitigation plan.

TPPC Coordinator Update Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals shared the following updates:

- TPPC requested and received a 6-month no-cost extension for the TPPC cooperative agreement, to continue through March 31, 2026.
- TPPC facilitated six monthly EC teleconferences, scheduled and assisted with monthly meetings for the TPPC Policy workgroup, coordinated the current hybrid meeting, facilitated training webinar on pollinator/pesticide interactions with Dr. Adrian Fisher of Arizona State University, disseminated two more TPPC newsletters, continued to update website and listserv (30 new members since March), attended the 2025 TLEF to do outreach for TPPC, and began process of electing new representatives for the TPPC's Executive Committee for the FY 26-27 term.
- In terms of budget summary, the only category TPPC is in the red for is supplies.
- For future newsletters, Dr. Fisher and Johnaton Koch were suggested by TPPC memebers.

- TPPC members suggested hiring a contract worker to help with white papers, someone who has a background in the topic area that can help with comment letters and white papers. Perhaps a university law student who might want to help in exchange for stipend.
- TPPC members suggested creating a short 3–5-minute video for social media to advertise TPPC and reach more people.

TPPC Representation on Other Pesticide Groups All attendees, facilitated by Nina Hapner

The focus of this session was to discuss what groups TPPC has been involved in and what they want to stay involved in moving forward. The group will discuss TPPC representation in more detail in the following hot topics session due to time constraints.

Hot Topics Discussion with TPPC Members TPPC Meeting Attendees, facilitated by Jasmine Courville

- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation: They have been working on pollinator habitat signs, which are currently up at their cultural center. They recently had a Monarch Blitz event and received positive feedback about that. They are also continuing to write their tribal code.
- Dave Lewis, Yavapai Apache Nation: They are continuing to increase their capacity on pesticide inspection compliance and enforcement
- Chelsea Begay, South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center: The funding for next year has not been approved yet and they are still working at limited capacity at University of Oklahoma, Norman. Chelsea is the New Mexico Tribal Liaison, and they have left over funding so they are putting on two workshops this coming year. One of the workshops is about fire and the red card training and red card alternatives to that. The other workshop is about pollinators and food sovereignty.
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation: She has switched to working on water now and has a few projects that are ongoing. Renee is trying to see if she can still keep her seat on TPPC since she switched positions. She did a presentation for the Attorney General in Minnesota about the waters. She noted they have a lot of impaired waters, groundwater, surface water, and water quantity issues. She is working on a group that is focusing on emerging contaminants. She spoke about the reorganization in EPA in Region 5. There is uncertainty around their RTOC and they are having an emergency meeting to determine if they will meet. Renee spoke about the damage caused to wild rice by a thrasher on an airboat.
- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe: They currently do not have a manager or water quality specialist, and they recently had to fire their wild rice specialist. They are trying to figure out how to piece all the programs back together. There are about 7 of them managing over 40 grants. They are resubmitting a grant for an air program based on their current needs. They spoke about the issues they have had with drafting their watershed management plan.
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation: They are working on a garden that they are going to fill with native pollinator plants and a pond project they are hoping to complete later this year.

They just finished a grant for a project where they are going to restore a riparian area to help with erosion control.

- Cricket (Joe) Herrera, Yakama Nation: Continuing to work on inspections, had two drift complaints this year (one being a drone drift case), and continuing to work on pollinator stuff.
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: Managing several programs and also undergoing some changes in their department. They do everything from brownfield to wildlife, to range management to pesticides, border protection, marketplace inspections, structural co development, SOP (standard operating procedure) writing. Camilo just finished the SOP for the air program and is currently doing pesticides/air and then will be the new GAP person.
- Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: Started the fiscal year with 3 structural inspections, working on the hazardous waste event they are hosting, working on air quality compliance assistance with construction companies and farmers, and working on restrictive use pesticide application. Developed several documents for the Air program.
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes: They are continuing to work on the fish project and sampling fish for pesticides. They are also building a pesticide stewardship program (it involves over 300 stakeholders). Jasmine did many inspections and cases and mentioned that there were 70 dead deer from a virus outbreak from blue tongue. They are continuing their PFAS monitoring and working on their AIS (aquatic invasive species) program.
- Jefferson Biakaddy, Navajo Nation: Finishing submitting all their reports to region 9 and then they plan to start working on water chlorination spectrums. Bureau of Indian Education reached out to him to inquire about which schools had the most antimicrobial pesticides but he has not heard back after he notified her of the schools. He is working on a potential non-violation EPS related region.
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association: Continuing outreach and education, particularly with the youth, to make sure community members are knowledgeable about pesticides. They just had their last gathering this year, and it was a success. They are planning their next gathering at Graton Rancheria in Northern California. She spoke about the stewardship they have over a lagoon and the ongoing challenges of trying to restore it.
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community: QUAPP was approved, they made an IPM video under a GAP project, and they are working on an outdoor classroom. As part of the outdoor classroom, they have a garden, orchards, and a retention pond. They received 3 pollinator signs made through EPA for their pollinator garden, and they completed a rainwater harvesting project. They are updating their app, website, and online learning, and it will all be cloud-based.

Group consensus that TPPC's number one priority from EPA is to increase funding. Everyone is tired of being asked to do more with less funding/resources. Linsey is going to bring this up when asked by Nancy what the main priority is for TPPC.

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Meeting Notes
DAY TWO, Wednesday, October 15th

Jasmine welcomed everyone to the second day of the conference. Nina mentioned the previous day went well, the questions asked and the discussion had were both great.

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), Updates Kelly Friend, AAPCO President

Kelly Friend, AAPCO President, shared the following updates:

- The mission of AAPCO is to represent states in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policies and programs related to the sale, use, transport, and disposal of pesticides.
- They have an annual meeting (that is open to TPPC members to attend), regular monthly calls with AAPCO Board of Directors, monthly meeting with EPA OPP leadership, and monthly call with EPA OECA. Regular calls with TPPC leadership, ASPRO, and EPA.
- They have eight workgroups and the newest they just started is a workgroup on pesticide devices. Beyond workgroups and committees, they have liaisons that stay connected to different organizations. A lot of effort goes into staying connected and hearing what types of issues are arising. They recently created several infographics and one-pagers to describe the connection between, states, the federal government, and how we all fit together with FIFRA to get the work done.
- Discussion about creating an AAPCO and TPPC workgroup and extending to also include ASPCRO folks as well.

Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO), John Pitcock, ASPCRO President

John Pitcock, ASPCRO President shared the following:

- Their vision is to be the most responsive and reliable unifying voice of state, territorial, and tribal non-ag pest control regulatory officials. Their mission is to act as a premier source of information for structural and non-ag pesticide use, compliance, and regulation by:
 - Fostering partnerships with all aspects of pest control industry.
 - Providing and promoting education and solutions to address emerging issues.
 - Acting as a liaison between the EPA, consumers, and industry partners.
 - They have roughly 11 technical working committees.
- ASPCRO Inspector Training: Nominations are received in August/September and those selected will participate in 10 monthly webinar sessions. They will have in-person training and practical at the annual conference to earn certification.

- Continuing to work on pre-emption, sulfuryl fluoride implementation, rodenticides, ESA activities, and website and registration system updates

State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Updates, Steven Dwinell, SFIREG Chair

Steve Dwinell, SFIREG Chair shared the following:

- SFIREG is subcommittee of AAPCO and it's a formal mechanism for the state-lead pesticide agencies and the EPA to resolve issues that arise from the implementation of FIFRA, and it reflects the states' primacy role in pesticide enforcement and/or certification programs.
- Three working committees including the newest committee, the Endangered Species Strategy Implementation Working Committee. As issues are identified by the state lead pesticide agencies, each of the working committees either take them on deliberately on their own, or they're assigned by the full committee to take a look at those issues. They gather information, analyze the situation, and then determine if there are any solutions or answers to those questions. They then bring them back to the full SFIREG committee for the full SFIREG committee to discuss with EPA.
- There are 2 issues SFIREG is working on that are particularly important for states, 1) Accessing historical BLT data and 2) Notice of pesticide use limitation areas (PULA) addition or Bulletin changes.

Endangered Species Act Updates and Bulletins Live! Two Demo Natalie Bray, EPA/OCSPP Office of Pesticide Programs

- Natalie Bray, EPA/OCSPP Office of Pesticide Programs, works in the pesticide re-evaluation division, and they are doing a lot of work on the Endangered Species Act. There are several strategies they are working on including Herbicide Strategy, Vulnerable Species Action Plan, Insecticide Strategy, Rodenticide Strategy, Fungicide Strategy (under development) and Hawaii Strategy (under development).
- Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) is a website that allows for location-specific protections. Pesticide applicators are required to visit the BLT website and follow any mitigations specified for the intended application and product.
- Natalie walked the group through a demo of how to use BLT and how to use the mitigation/erosion mitigation calculator.
 - A PULA is a species core map plus a buffer.
 - Mitigation menu—you now have the option to pick your mitigation, but you must achieve the point total listed on the label. This gives the applicator more flexibility on mitigation measures as they just need to meet the point threshold. The runoff/erosion mitigation calculator can be used to count the mitigation measures and determine how many points you have.

- They have assigned point values to these mitigation measures based on their efficacy. They have a document called the Mitigation Support Document, and they are on their second version. In this document they go through all the mitigations that are listed on the mitigation menu, and decide if you put this mitigation in place, you are protecting against runoff because that's the goal, to prevent runoff. They evaluated those practices and the practices that had greater efficacy in mitigating runoff and erosion got higher points than the ones that had lower efficacy.

SRPMIC Pesticides Program Overview Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

- In 1989-1999 SRPMIC entered into an agreement with Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc to develop a pesticide office. From 2000-present, SRPMIC has received direct funding to continue development & implementation of Pesticide Office and the IPM Program.
- On a given day, there could be 10-15 inspections for structural.
- The SRPMIC covers 52,600 acres (19,000 acres natural preserve).
- There are 11,280+ enrolled members, 50 business leases, and 11+ enterprises.
- They have 3 private schools on the community and about 95% of students are from off the reservation, so the majority of the students at these private schools are non-community members.
- They are looking to expand more in development, and they are getting 30-40 applications a day, making it challenging to monitor.
- They regulate all the herbicides, pesticides, and any insecticides that are coming into the community. They are able to enter in a lawful manner any public or private premises within the SRPMIC.
- The Structural Pesticide Pre-application Notification form is one of the forms that must be submitted, along with the 24 hours notice before conducting pesticide applications. The applicator must give 72 hours notice before conducting pesticide applications at schools.
- They perform a variety of pesticide inspections from agriculture, worker protection standards, marketplace, and pesticide outreach.
- SRPMIC was awarded an EPA grant in 2002 for an IPM pilot project at Tribal schools.
- They have civil fines up to 10,000 per violation, for each day of its continuance. They also have the right to confiscate equipment under their ordinance. Some inspection challenges they have experienced include getting pesticide applicators to use the internet notification system, continuing to educate pesticide applicators that they are working on tribal lands and not State, educating applicators on the SRPMIC Pesticide and Environmental Ordinance, and inspecting seasonal workers.
- They have a good relationship with Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). ADA helps SRPMIC with Worker Protection Training for handlers and workers. Both ADA and USDA get a Special Use Permit from SRPMIC.

- Overcome outreach challenges by reminding community members to read the label first, to wear PPE, use pesticides and herbicides safely and correctly, and buy the right amount of pesticides and herbicides for the job.
- They are averaging 4-5 restricted-use pesticide applications a day.

National Pesticide Information Center Updates, Meredith Cocks, NPIC

- Mission of National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) is to provide objective information about pesticides to the public to reduce risk to people, animals, the environment. NPIC is funded by a cooperative agreement with EPA.
- Operate a national toll free hotline where they provide information about pesticide health and safety risks to the public, primarily, but also to professionals. Focus on reducing exposures, helping address the problem, and clean up. NPIC records the data from each call and logs what is being reported by the public, what circumstances led to exposure, how many incidents are being reported, trends in active ingredient use, and questions and concerns being raised about a topic. This data is available for no charge to EPA and affiliated entities.
- They have a new website that has also been optimized for mobile phones. Some features highlighted include the FAQ section, a live chat feature, infographics, and fact sheets. On the website you will also find a directory of resources that is updated regularly.

What Else Could I Have Done Jefferson Biakaddy, Navajo Nation

Jefferson Biakaddy shared a specific example with the group of a recent enforcement action.

- An individual called their office and asked about using the round-up herbicide. They were working on securing a contract with the Tuba City Unified School District (TCUSD) Office and school building. Jefferson called the facility's maintenance contact at the school, and they did not have any planned herbicide treatment. Jefferson contacted the AZ Pest Management to assist in contacting the pest control operator and arrange a meeting. AZ Pest Management scheduled a meeting/inspection with the pest control operator, and Jefferson scheduled an inspection with the TCUSD superintendent.
- The superintendent informed Jefferson that there was a herbicide treatment on August 29, 2025 and three sites were treated with Trimec Classic Herbicide. Jefferson went to the application site and the turf appeared to be burnt, yellowing, and drying up and bare in spots. He was informed that the application was performed manually through a long-reeled hose and spray gun.
- The applicator instructed the facilities management that there should be no cutting or watering for 3-4 days and no entry for one day. The next day the school had a fire drill, and all the students had to go to the football field which still had a strong odor. Two days later on game day, the facilities management person mowed the lawn and ended up getting sick (body aches, nauseated, fatigue) and recovered over the weekend. No kids ended up getting sick, according to the report. There were potential FIFRA violations.

- This was an example of a gap that exists and the importance of making sure the person is trained and certified who is applying the pesticides. It also highlights the fault of the superintendent for exposing all those students.

National Tribal Caucus Update Tabitha Langston, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, NTC Chair

Tabitha Langston, National Tribal Caucus (NTC), shared a few recent updates:

- In July, the NTC Executive Committee went to DC, where they met with the Deputy Administrator, Administrator Zeldin. Administrator Zeldin reaffirmed the 1984 Indian policy and did a signing ceremony.
- While in DC, the NTC also met with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. At that time, she was an appointee, but she has since been confirmed. The Chief Financial Officer, Paige Hansen, met with them virtually.
- Victoria Tran will be the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator at the Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- NTC wrote a budget request document for FY 2027 and submitted it October 1
- The NTOC meeting with the administrator and assistant administrator for 2025 has been postponed until early 2026
- Tabitha started quarterly partnership group meetings this calendar year and that has been going well
- They had a small presentation on EPA's decision not to defend in court the tribal reserved right's rule
- Tabitha spoke with the Region 6 Regional Administrator, Scott Mason (the American Indian Environmental Office Director in the first Trump administration), and asked him at the RTOC meeting to help set up a meeting with the DEQ for the state and the Secretary of the Environment. The meeting is set for November 18th.
- This year they completed more papers and letters than in the past few years. Tabitha noted they had the help of Region 10's RTOC policy advisor a couple of times.
- The NTC does not have financial support, and they have been pushing for it. Tabitha anticipates that they will propose to the NTC that they use GAAP dollars. **She would like feedback from TPPC members for their thoughts on using GAP money to fund the NTC.**

Hot Topics (continued from yesterday)

- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians: They are planting some forbs to improve grassland habitat
- Jaclyn Listo, Tohono O'odham Nation: She is working on air quality, composting, IPM, and outreach. She mentioned structural pesticide applications (lots of buildings).
- Brenda Pusher-Begay: Their lands are located at the headwaters of the rivers that feed this area (the Salt River, primarily). They're one of the Tribes that applied for a pesticide grant in the past,

but they didn't get it, so they moved on and are doing what they can to manage pesticide impacts through their clean water grant. They have a groundwater pesticide management plan and they have a pesticide permit system for all uses on the reservation (these are funded through the grant). They do a lot of outreach.

- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe: The EPA concluded the Columbia grain fine which was \$149,000. It's an inspection case he's been working on for a while that just concluded with an EPA fine for the company. They were cited for fumigating garbanzo beans to prevent weevils without a proper fumigation plan in place. See [https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf/Filings/F6414E53F1C0751F85258BC5005D857D/\\$File/Columbia%20Grain%20Consent%20Agreement%20and%20Final%20Order.pdf](https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf/Filings/F6414E53F1C0751F85258BC5005D857D/$File/Columbia%20Grain%20Consent%20Agreement%20and%20Final%20Order.pdf) for more information. They did not have the appropriate fumigation plan. It was on the Nez Perce reservation (one of 5 he works with as a circuit rider), and the biggest enforcement case in the area in recent times
- Africa Dorame-Avalos: Their pesticide program with the Intertribal Council of Arizona is in their fourth year of their PPG. (Performance Partnership Grant - <https://www.epa.gov/ocir/national-environmental-performance-partnership-system-nepps>). They submitted two special projects, one was the pesticide inspector training and the other was the IPM training. Both have been completed. These were things they did with their grant funds. Africa is still the lead for the RTOC Pesticide Working Group Regional Tribal Operations Committee - one for each EPA region, hubs for regional environmental discussions between Tribes & EPA. She's on the one for Region 9 (AZ, CA, NV). Africa was formally invited to serve as a member of the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Advisory Board and Tribal Board with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Center. Africa also serves on PREP (Pesticide Regulatory Education Program) and PIRT (Pesticide Inspector Residential Training) - two big programs for pesticide training for state & tribal inspectors. She's been on both those boards for a while, and advocates for more spots for tribal participants.

Closed Door: TPPC Tribal Caucus, TPPC Tribal Attendees Only, facilitated by Jasmine Courville, TPPC Chair

Tribal Pesticide Program Council – Full Council Meeting
Ak-Chin Indian Community, Maricopa, AZ, and Virtual
Meeting Notes
DAY THREE, Thursday, October 16th

Welcome and TPPC Opening Remarks; Jasmine Courville, TPPC Chair, and Nina Hapner, TPPC Vice-Chair

Nina talked about the tribal caucus from the previous day and highlighted a few things they discussed:

- They discussed how the workgroups can be engaged with Endangered Species and shared concerns with the EPA access map to show how they are building PULAs and how tribes can be more involved in that.
- In conjunction with the mapping, they discussed how far behind the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is. They also spoke about TPPC representation with other groups such as AAPCO and ASPCRO and how they can engage more.

New and Emerging Technologies; Matthew Weiner, EPA/OCSP Office of Pesticide Programs

Matthew Weiner, EPA/OCSP Office of Pesticide Programs, spoke about the Coordinated Framework (CF) on the regulation of biotechnology.

- The coordinated framework is three agencies (FDA, USDA, and EPA) that all work together to regulate biotechnology products. They are set up to ensure that human health and the environment are adequately considered, and they form a network to cover all products, which results in agencies working closely together to make sure everything is properly covered. The coordinated framework allows for an evolution of regulation as novel products arise and technology advances. In the Emerging Technologies branch, they are responsible for regulating a various number of newer biotechnologies that don't fit into the other branches in the Biopesticide and Pollution Prevention Division.
- Some examples of they have regulated include: genetically engineered plants, genetically engineered microbials, microbial pesticides introduced into mosquitoes, genetic modifications in pest animals for use as a pesticide, and exogenous dsRNA sprayable RNAi products, and certain pesticides and proteins.
- They operate under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). All these regulations are responsible for enacting these laws can be found on the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Protection of the Environment, specifically Parts 150 to 189. Important regulations highlighted include: 40 CFR 174, 40 CFR 172, and 40 CFR 158.
- In terms of experimental use permits (EUPs), they evaluate all active and inert ingredients. For containment of products identified in EUPs, out crossing of pollen must be prevented regardless

of test plot size if no tolerance or tolerance exemption. Without tolerance (or exemption), harvested crops/produce must not enter commerce.

- Biotech notifications are defined under 40 CFR172, and are for areas less than 10 acres, unlike an EUP. Small-scale field testing of genetically modified microbes specifically. A biotech notification gets an expedited review, and EPA will determine whether or not an EUP is needed for that testing. There are some products that have an exemption from biotech notification. Most recently, a new rule has been published that exempts certain plant-incorporated protectants derived from new technologies from both FIFRA and FFDCA tolerance requirements.
- There are two types of modified mosquito technologies evaluated to date by the EPA, bacteria-infected mosquitoes (*Wolbachia pipientis*) and genetic modifications in mosquitoes intended for use as a pesticide (OX5034).

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) 101; Nicole Marks, EPA/OSCPP Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Nicole Marks, EPA/OSCPP spoke about the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program.

- TRI is an information resource that can help you learn about toxic chemical waste management at facilities across the United States. It is an informational resource for communities, but it also supports informed decision-making at all levels of government. It supports industries, nonprofits, academia, the press, and other stakeholder groups.
- Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) was established in 1986. EPCRA has an emergency response component, as well as a separate community right-to-know informational component, and that's now known as the TRI. The TRI was given another data collection component through TRI by the passage of the Pollution Prevention Act. This act expanded on TRI data collection to include source reduction and pollution prevention information, in addition to the information we were already collecting on waste management. EPCRA and Pollution Prevention Act are the primary acts under which TRI operates.
- They cover over 800 individual chemicals or chemical categories (those that cause cancer or chronic human health effects, adverse acute human health effects, and significant adverse environmental effects), and they receive reports from about 21,000 industrial facilities every year. Facilities report to TRI electronically using the Form R and they report release of TRI chemicals at the facility, other waste management activities involving TRI chemicals at the facility, transfer of TRI chemicals in waste going to off-site locations for further management, and newly implemented source reduction.
- The facilities that must report are covered industry sectors (manufacturing, coal/oil electricity generation, certain mining facilities, and hazardous waste management) that have a minimum number of employees (10), and manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than a certain amount of TRI-listed toxic chemical per year.
- Facilities that report to TRI have reported that over 23 billion pounds of chemicals have been eliminated since the program's implementation in 1991. The annual reporting deadline for the previous calendar year is July 1st and facilities must use the best readily available data and certify

accuracy. EPA Headquarters and regional offices review data and follow up on late/non-reporting facilities, on suspected errors, etc. They take enforcement actions and assess penalties.

- Limitations include the following: it covers many but not all chemicals and industry sectors, does not include all sources of pollution, does not describe the duration or frequency of releases, and does not indicate if and to what extent a person has been exposed.
- Facilities located in Indian country must report to the tribal government and to EPA. TRI can be used by or be helpful to tribes in a few ways. It can be used to identify which industrial facilities operate on or near tribal lands, and where they're located. It can be used to compare the toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention efforts of facilities in one location with a similar facility that's on or near the tribal lands. It can be used to identify what chemicals are being released, of course. It can be used to prioritize efforts to reduce pollution from facilities that are on or near tribal lands. It can be used to track increases or reductions of toxic chemical releases from facilities over time.
- Nicole showed the audience a demonstration of the TRI travel search tool to demonstrate how someone can access this data to try to get at some of the questions for their own tribes.
- There are a few webpages and resources Nicole wanted to highlight:
 - The TRI for Tribes webpage is the primary resource for TRI data and information most relevant to Tribal communities. (<https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-tribes>)
 - The TRI National Analysis Executive Summary is a great resource. It is the EPA's annual interpretation of the most recent TRI data and it includes written analyses plus interactive maps, charts, and graphs and is available in English or Spanish. (<https://awsgispub.epa.gov/trina2023/summary/>)
- There are opportunities for Tribal engagement:
 - TRI quarterly regional/state/Tribal conference call
 - TRI email updates
 - Share TRI data within tribal communities
 - Assist EPA with data verification

SRPMIC IPM/ Hazardous Substances Office Overview; Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Camilo went over the demographics which were discussed during his prior presentation.

Camilo talked about the management techniques used as part of an IPM and they include:

- Improve hygiene standards
- Use of pest exclusion methods
- Habitat manipulation
- Encourage natural occurring biological control species
- Selection of target-specific control products that have low toxicity and environment impact

- Biological control products are often used very successfully

The problems in the Tribal schools were the following:

- SRPMIC Day School had roaches, ants, house crickets, stray dogs/cats. The solutions were hygiene, exclusion, call Animal Control for stray dogs, IGR (roaches, house crickets).
- SRPMIC Day School has scorpions, ants, spiders, stray dogs/cats, etc. The solutions were habitat modification, hygiene exclusion, IGR (roaches, ants, spiders).

Accomplishments after IPM implementation:

- 90% reduction in chemical pesticide usage
- 85% reduction in pests
- A better understanding of IPM programs and Tribal Schools
- Knowledge to implement IPM methods in our tribal homes within the community

Camilo reviewed the outreach challenges the community faces that were discussed in his previous presentation. In addition, he mentioned the following solutions: attending Senior Breakfast on a monthly basis, attending meetings at the Food Bank and Environmental Health meeting, and environmental staff workers help the program.

Tribal Caucus Report-out /Open Discussion with EPA; All attendees, facilitated by Jasmine Courville

- A brochure was shared with the group about the Casa Grande Ruins and briefly discussed
- Mark discussed some temporary changes in leadership and noted that Nikki Cooley is the new ITEP Director and his new boss, and she may be on some of the meetings
- Nina talked about the concern they discussed in the caucus about how the EPA is getting its maps for endangered species. She mentioned it would be nice to get the shapefiles they are using to create the PULAs. They would also like to get the shapefiles on the critical habitat. Nina also shared they talked about direct implementation in the caucus, and they wanted to work on improving the EPA's direct implementation for Indian Country.
- Jasmine asked if they could get a presentation in the future on the Icafolin risk assessment and Linsey is going to work on getting that arranged. She also mentioned they are still interested in Linsey trying to get a speaker from DI Center for Excellence to join the monthly calls (Linsey will work on this).
- Renee spoke about her disappointment to hear that even with all of this stuff with the Bulletins Live, and the mitigations menu, that they are still not in compliance with the ESA, and they're not going to be in compliance. She would like to get a breakdown on where those shortfalls are for them to come into compliance. Linsey is not sure if she can get this, but she will ask.

*(Yellow highlighting in the notes above indicates action items)