

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 4, 2009
Jill Schroeder
December 17, 2009

Schedule of third quarter visits:

October 12-16
December 7-11

Overview of Activities: I continue to visit the EPA-OPP headquarters one week every other month. My October trip was similar to previous trips to DC except that David Shaw presented his seminar “Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds: *Can We Close the Barn Door in Time?*” to members of the registration committee of Crop Life (arranged by Lee VanWychen) and EPA on October 13. In addition to David, John Jachetta, Mike Barrett, Lee VanWychen, and Rich Bonanno attended representing WSSA. The presentation (all of OPP were invited) followed by a discussion with EPA staff was well attended by at least 30 people, including staff from the OPP resistance workgroup, APHIS staff, and Herbicide Branch (HB) staff. The seminar was excellent and the discussion lively; the presentation and discussion lasted nearly two hours. I received feedback during the rest of the week indicating that they very much enjoyed the presentation; they felt it was clear and easy to understand and that it addressed many points about which they were interested. I appreciate David’s willingness to take the time to prepare the presentation. I also appreciate the excellent representation of WSSA members at the seminar; they all contributed to the discussion. I had follow-up discussions with Bill Chism and Bill Phillips (Biological and Economics Analysis Division, BEAD) about management of herbicide resistant weeds and how they want to develop a framework to identify high risk conditions for development of resistance. This discussion was in the preliminary stages and will probably continue for some time.

Other activities during the week included discussions with Dan Kenny about the new transparency guidelines and how notification procedures within the division will change. I also attended several sessions of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) meeting. This large committee is made up of representatives from all stakeholder groups, including industry, academia, departments of agriculture, NGO’s, and others who hold very diverse opinions and provide diverse input to the agency. Topics of discussion included an extensive NPDES update/discussion, and briefings on public input, climate change discussion (summarizing the briefing I attended in Aug), disclosure of inert ingredients, endocrine disrupter screening program (EDSP), spray drift PR notice, OW/OPP/ORD harmonization of efforts on toxicology methods and benchmarks.

My December trip was highlighted by meeting further with Bill Chism and Bill Phillips about resistance management issues. Bill Chism is planning to meet with the HRAC and Herbicide Resistance Committees at WSSA in Denver to solicit their assistance with the development of a framework for identifying situations at high risk for development of resistant weeds; their goal is to identify situations where EPA should focus their efforts. I also sat in on discussions among members of the Herbicide Branch (HB), and learned more about the process the Health Effects Division uses to conduct risk assessments for human health (thank you to Susan Stanton, HB). I attended briefings on NPDES (SFIREG meeting), and met with Susan Lewis (BEAD Associate Division Director) and Tom Brennan (Branch Chief, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division) to discuss EPA’s role in IPM. I also attended Joanne Miller’s retirement reception. Joanne has served as Product Manager for the Herbicide Branch for many productive years; they will miss her expertise in the branch and division.

My next visit to EPA/OPP is scheduled for January 11-15, 2010. I also plan to attend NISAW while in DC. On behalf of Lee VanWychen, I invited Jack Faulk (Office of Water), Susan Lewis (OPP/BEAD Assoc. Director), and ‘Skee’ Jones (OPP/BEAD Branch Chief) to provide an update on NPDES permitting requirements. They agreed to attend the session.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA