

WSSA Liaison to EPA
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 2, 2009
Jill Schroeder
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Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) organization:

The OPP is organized into nine divisions. Several of the divisions are responsible for risk assessment of pesticides, both to human health and the environment. Other divisions are responsible for risk management, including the Registration Division (RD) where I am located. These divisions are responsible for making sure pesticide labels are written clearly and appropriately according to federal regulations and so they can be used effectively without causing undue risks to humans and the environment. There are eight branches within the Registration Division, including the Herbicide Branch. The Herbicide Branch Director is Dan Kenny who is my immediate contact within the agency.

Schedule of second quarter visits:

April 27-30, 2009
May 11-14, 2009 (Florida invasive weed field trip)
June 22-25, 2009

Overview of Activities: My visits continue to concentrate on meeting people and learning how the office operates. In addition, I have become more involved in issue discussions including the court decision that may lead to NPDES permitting and herbicide resistance management. I have continued to have the opportunity to interact with people in OPP (Bill Jordan, special assistant to Debbie Edwards, Registration Division, RD, Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD), Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED), and now the Office of Water. Each month offered very different experiences; I will summarize them below by month. Overall, I continue to be very impressed with the people and with the work they are doing. I am still learning. One of the topics that Dan and I have discussed is how to acquaint me with more of the activities within the Office of Pesticide Programs. I think we will be working on linking me with individuals in other divisions so I can learn more about how the risk assessments are conducted; these assessments are used by the Herbicide Branch in their mitigation work.

April: Kurt Getsinger and Angela Poovey (USAERDC, a member of Kurt's team in Mississippi) were in DC for the week and we coordinated many of our activities. I attended parts of the quarterly State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) meeting; we met with Bill Jordan and then Skee Jones (BEAD, and a member of the team tasked with developing the permits) to discuss the status of the NPDES court decision (update is posted on the WSSA web site) and the upcoming Florida Invasives Field trip; we met with Lee VanWychen and Harold Coble; and met with teams from other divisions to discuss issues relevant to aquatics and herbicide resistance. I presented a seminar to the Office to introduce myself and to describe my program. I also followed up on questions from the Herbicide Branch with WSSA members.

May: My liaison activity was to participate in the field trip organized by Bill Haller, University of Florida, and Kurt Getsinger. The trip was excellent and has been summarized; the report is available on the WSSA website.

June: I again attended parts of the SFIREG quarterly meeting; I met more of the group members and reacquainted with Dave Daiker, SFIREG committee chair, who had gone on the Florida field trip. One of

the presentations was by Jack Faulk, Office of Water, and Bill Jordan, OPP; they provided an update on the court decisions and discussed plans to develop and implement the NPDES permits. Updates on the activities related to developing permits can be found at www.epa.gov/NPDES/agriculture. I attended RD staff meetings and meetings related to ongoing activities in the herbicide branch, BEAD, and NPDES permitting and met with Lee VanWychen.

Plans for third quarter: My schedule will change for the third quarter. I will visit the EPA-OPP headquarters one week per every other month. I will try to keep this schedule somewhat flexible so that I can be there when needed/activities related to issues impacting weed science are occurring. The next trips have not yet been scheduled as a result.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA