REGULATOR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGISTRATION DIVISION

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials
Annual Meeting
March 9-11, 2015
Regulator In Residence (RIR) Program

- Unique Opportunity
- Issues & Items of Interest
- Retrospection
- The Future of the Program
RIR...A Unique Opportunity

- Direct benefits to the State Lead Agency (SLA), EPA, and the regulated industry
  - Provide States’ perspective on pesticide-related matters, specifically label language, in guidance to EPA
  - Expand knowledge of the federal registration process, including other opportunities for input...better relay information regarding the registration process to interested parties
  - Establish contacts (SLA, EPA & Industry)
  - Further strengthens our relationship with EPA...as co-regulators, a strong working relationship is essential
RIR ...What It Is **Not**

- Does **not** circumvent or in any way replace the current mechanisms in place for dialogue and feedback from SLAs
  - AAPCO
    - SFIREG
      - Working Committees
  - ASPCRO
  - PPDC
  - Other Associations, Working Groups, etc
Issues & Items of Interest

- **National Focus, e.g.**
  - Pollinator Protection – Label Amendments
  - Web Distributed Labeling
  - Structured Labeling; “Smart Labels”
  - Spray Drift...new 2,4-D and Dicamba uses
  - Bilingual Labeling

- **State Specific Issues and Items**
  - FL – Soil fumigants; Pilot 24(c) Project; Non-Native Species Eradication Program
  - IN – Antimicrobial misbranding; distributor registration
  - VA – Bilingual Labeling Pilot Project; spray drift
RIR...Observations

- Perceptions ≠ Reality

- EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is fully supportive of Program

- EPA Staff are competent and hardworking
  - Actively seek input into decisions and actions
  - Decisions and actions often made under intense pressure and small windows of time

- EPA Staff take actions based on:
  - Best science available
  - Legal requirements
  - Political environment

- OPP and Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance at times lack cohesion

- Headquarters & Regions at times experience a disconnection
  - Priorities
  - Dissemination of information
RIR...Retrospection

Myriad of opportunities for both SLAs and EPA...

- Form and strengthen relationships
- Enhance SLAs’ knowledge of EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs
  - Divisions and roles
  - Interactions between Divisions
  - Registration process
  - Risk assessment
  - Risk mitigation

“Everything begins & ends with the label”
Enhance EPA’s knowledge of State Lead Agencies for pesticide regulation
- Programs
- Enforcement…what really happens in the field

Provide occasions for open dialogue
- Can agree to disagree!
RIR...Retrospection

- Fosters mutual respect
  - Federal and state roles and responsibilities
  - Unique challenges EPA & SLAs face
  - Acknowledge differences
  - Keep communication lines open

- Re-enforces shared goals
  - Protect Human Health
  - Protect Environment
  - Ensure Availability of Pesticides
    - Fast track “safer” Pesticides
RIR...Retrospection

- Fostered current and future collaboration between EPA & SLAs
- Enhanced relationships between SLAs
  - IN, FL & VA participated in 2 joint visits
- Joint visits provided multiple perspectives to EPA
- Leverage resources !!!
RIR...Retrospection

- Select Successes
  - Bilingual Labeling Pilot Project – provided staff to assist & mechanism for preliminary user feedback
  - Learned distributor registration process pitfalls & go to guys
  - Made AD aware of label compliance issues
  - Reinforced OPP/OECA/Region/SLA coordination needs on “Smart Label” & “Label Matching” efforts
RIR...The Future

- Fully support continuation of program
  - Still some unfinished “issues and items of interest”
    - Pollinator Protection
    - Spray Drift
    - “Smart Label” & “Label Matching”
    - 24/7 label improvement activities

- Expand to other Divisions within OPP
- Expand to OECA
  - Program did provide opportunity to meet with OECA
  - Bridge the gap between the two
RIR...The Future

- Need for “Handler”
  - Primary POC
  - Schedule meetings
  - Building Access
  - Badging process

- Maintaining flexibility for participants is key...we all have a “real” job

- Challenges
  - Varying levels of participant knowledge
  - Six weeks is a long time to be out of the office
  - Cost to participate is incurred by the SLA
  - Interest
  - Coordination between EPA divisions & office placement
Regulator In Residence Program…

…The Future

Rising to the Challenges

- Orientation to OPP Divisions & Program
- Additional flexibility
  - Less than six weeks
  - Partial weeks (e.g., in combination with AAPCO meeting)
  - Issue focused visit
  - Week-in-Residence
- Advertise!
  - Benefits
  - Selection
- Seek participants to provide cross section of programs
- Utilize past participants as resources for new participants
Charlie Clark, Administrator
FDACS; Pesticide Registration Review Section
3125 Conner Blvd. #6
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650
Charlie.clark@freshfromflorida.com
850-617-7940
850-617-7949 (fax)

Dave Scott, Pesticide Administrator
Office of Indiana State Chemist
175 South University St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063
scottde@purdue.edu
765-494-1593
765-494-4331 (fax)

Liza J. Fleeson, Program Manager
VDACS-Office of Pesticide Services
102 Governor Street, Room 155
Richmond VA 23219
liza.fleeson@vdacs.virginia.gov
804-371-6559
804-371-2283 (fax)