1) **Pre-SFIREG Meeting:**
EPA Region 1 meeting held at the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture in Concord, NH on May 10, 2017.

**State Lead Agency Participants:**
Taryn Lascola (MA), Megan Patterson (ME), Cam Lay (ME), Dave Rousseau (NH), Robert Bruleigh (NH), Kathryn Hurley (NH), Ron Morris (NH), Howard Cook (RI), Linda Boccuzzo (VT) & Jeff Comstock (VT).
Note: Diane Jorsey (CT), Mary Tomlinson (ME), Ray Connors (ME) & John Pietroski (ME) by phone

**EPA Regional Office Participants:**
Sharon Hayes, Rob Koethe, Andrea Szylvian & Kan Tham
Note: Richard Pont (HQ) by phone

2) **Agenda Outline:**
- C&T Rule Webinar (Remote)
- WPS Outreach & Implementation Activities Webinar (Remote)
- EPA Regional Office Updates & Reports
- State/Tribal Reports

3) **C&T Rule Presentation**
Richard Pont (EPA Certification Branch) conducted a conference call webinar presentation on the status of the C&T Rule. Points of focus included:
A) Effective date of rule is delayed for 1 year to provide for executive branch review of the rule. Structure of the 3 year implementation timeline will remain based on new start date(s).
B) Revised State Certification Plans will be required. Attorney General opinion/verification of state authority is required but not a new Governor’s letter.
C) Rule will require addition of fumigant competency to private applicator exams.
D) SLAs and Regional Office have significant confusion/uncertainty related to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) criteria for reading proficiency requirements. Variability among state requirements will/may have impact on status of inter-state/regional reciprocal certification agreements.
E) SLAs and Regional Office discussed proposal for a regional certification plan review workshop. This topic also suggested as addition to EPA project officer training curriculum.
F) SLAs also asked about continued support of worker safety activities including support of CTAG and PSEP through PRIA and other potential mechanisms.

4) **WPS Implementation Activities Report/Discussion**
Richard Pont (EPA) also provided presentation on the status of WPS outreach and implementation activities. Points of focus included:
A) The NASDA postponement request/letter (post-election version) is under consideration by the Agency. Response id TBD with Federal Register notification pending. Therefore, the WPS Rule remains in effect.
B) Federal Register Notice will provide for comment period on the delay request but not related to content of the WPS Rule.
C) WPS Rule implementation by EPA is undergoing an audit by the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Final report is not due/expected until August, 2017.
D) SLAs and PSEPs will be responsible for funding the printing/publication of How-To-Comply manuals.

E) Rule-Specific Interpretations: The crop advisor waiver is intended to be a national provision, not a state-by-state determination. And, SLAs are asking for guidance on Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) spray quality parameters/criteria.

5) Regional Office Updates & Reports:
   A) Regional office staff reported that EPA-wide priority initiative for School IPM is/will be transitioned to Vector Management – responding to tick and mosquito borne diseases. This activity is not yet a pick list option.
   B) EPA is developing a Hive Science app for mobile devices.
   C) The Region 1 Office, the EPA Office of Research and Development, Research Triangle Park and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station are initiating a Regional Applied Research Effort (R.A.R.E) research project for the 2017 growing season to evaluate exposure of bees to pesticides applied in normal nursery crop production.
   D) R1 PIRT scheduled for March, 2018 at EPA Laboratory, Chelmsford, MA. VT is host for 2019 PIRT.
   E) National Program Managers (NPM) Meeting is scheduled for June 6-8, 2017 and therefore, will not coincide with re-scheduled Full SFIREG Meeting.

6) State Report Highlights:
   A) Apiary Inspection: SLAs struggle to maintain apiary inspection staff and operational resources. RI has inspector retirement pending with replacement uncertain. ME has recently hired a replacement inspector.
   B) Tick & Mosquito Surveillance: CT reports increase in tick pressures and requests for treatment recommendations, by school districts. ME reports an increased number of tick-borne cases of powasson and is conducting surveillance research with Maine Medical Center (Southern Maine). NH reports a large increase in requests/issuance of municipal mosquito control permits.
   C) Product Registration & Use Regulation: CT reports on State RUP status for neonicotinoids (“used on plants”). No sale of existing stocks after Jan 2018. No use after Jan 2019. CT to establish railroad right-of-way vegetation management plan rule. ME to initiate registration requirement for GMO late blight resistant potatoes (plant incorporated protectants). VT establishing producer establishment, applicator certification and dealer sales requirements for (insecticide) treated livestock feed production facilities.
   D) Pollinator Plans: MA completed and released its' pollinator plan. It reports lack of coordination from state Fish & Game Dept. based on honeybees not meeting native pollinator priority/focus.
   E) Cannabis: MA reports that it submitted a workplan that proposed12 new staff positions to meet demand for inspection, education and administrative operations.
   F) Finances: CT reports state budget and staffing security as dire. State financial solvency at risk.
   G) Unresolved Issues:
      Drones - Region 1 SLAs and ME are requesting guidance on aerial application permit status for drones utilized for pesticide applications.
      Reciprocal Certification Agreements - NH is proposing to host a Region 1 Certification Coordination Summit during 2018. Purpose of summit is to rebuild regional reciprocal agreements consistent with the new C&T Rule. Region 1 SLAs and PSEPs use Cornell University applicator training manuals as a common resource.

5) Next Meeting: Scheduled for November 14, 2017 @ EPA Region 1 Laboratory, Chelmsford, MA.