The USEPA Region 2 Pre-SFIREG meeting was held by conference call on April 30, 2019. USEPA Region 2, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands participated in the call. Some of the main topics discussed during this call were as follows:

**USEPA Region 2 Pesticide Program Realignment** - Audrey Moore, USEPA Region 2, began the call by providing information on the realignment of the USEPA Region 2 Pesticides Program. The realignment has placed the pesticide program in two Divisions. Several staff will report to the Chemicals Management Section in the Land, Chemicals, & Redevelopment Division. The remainder of the staff will report to the Lead Paint and Pesticides Compliance Section in the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division. This realignment creates a clear distinction between the pesticide enforcement program and the grant management program.

**Focused Worker Protection Standard Inspections** - Carol Galloway, USEPA Office of Compliance, discussed the development process for focused Worker Protection Standard (WPS) inspections. Focused inspections will target only a subset of the WPS requirements, which may shorten the WPS inspection process, potentially allowing more agricultural establishments to be inspected. The focused inspection concept was discussed during the development of the 2016 WPS inspection manual but was not fully developed in time to be placed in the manual. This program started when Pennsylvania and USEPA Region 3 initiated a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of focused inspections. With the success of this pilot program, it was determined that this inspection process may be an option for states to use once a framework for focused WPS inspections is developed. This framework will need to have minimum standards for the inspection process, including which WPS areas would be mandatory to inspect and when focused inspections are appropriate.

**Certification and WPS Regulations** - Carol Galloway, USEPA Office of Compliance, provided information on the proposed WPS and Certification and Training regulation amendments. In January, USEPA withdrew their proposal to amend the “minimum age” and “designated represented” portion of the Worker Protection Standard and withdrew their proposal to change the minimum age in the Certification and Training regulation. Although these two proposals are no longer being pursued by USEPA, they are continuing to pursue changes to the “Application Exclusion Zone” requirement in the WPS regulation.

**Minimum Risk Pesticides** - The amendments to the minimum risk pesticides regulations were discussed by the group. The effective date for this amended regulation was February 26, 2016, with a compliance date of February 26, 2019. The amendment requires additional information to be placed on the pesticide label in order to remain exempt from the FIFRA pesticide registration requirements. In addition to the earlier requirements of this regulation producers must place company contact information on the label to be compliant with the 2016 amendment. There was also a discussion on the need for CAS numbers to be placed on the label. The amendment originally included the need for CAS numbers to be on the label, but it was removed prior to the amendment being finalized.

**Certification and Training Plans** - The group had a conversation about the requirements for the submittal of the Certification and Training plans associated with the amended Pesticide Applicator Certification
and Training regulation. The plans will be submitted to USEPA Region 2 and one person will be responsible for coordinating the plan review for all the states and territories in the region. Review and approval will take place in both the region and headquarters, with final sign-off in the region. The USEPA checklist and Question and Answer documents have provided essential guidance the states and territories on the information that is required to be submitted as part of the plan.