

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 4, 2010
December 16, 2010

Fourth quarter activities:

November 3-4: I attended the Washington State Weed Control Conference in Yakima, WA. I was invited to speak to the general session attendees on my activities as SME. The title of my presentation was “*Subject Matters: Weed Science at Environmental Protection Agency*”. Approximately 500 people were in attendance.

December 13-16: visit to DC

There have been a number of changes in the Registration Division. Dan Kenny has taken a position as acting Branch Chief of the Technology Branch while Meredith Laws is acting as Herbicide Branch Chief. These are 6-month assignments that began in November, 2010. I spent some time with Meredith during the week discussing herbicides.

I attended the resistance workgroup meeting, some of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) meeting, branch meetings and individual meetings during the week. Allison Wiedeman, OW, provided an update on NPDES; the permit is nearly ready for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review. They anticipate that they will publish the final permit in the Federal Register in late January, 2011. States will have until April 2011 to get the program in place. I provided updates on the activities of the S71 committee in the resistance meetings and had an excellent discussion with Skee Jones, Bill Chism, and Bill Phillips (BEAD) and Frank Wong (APS SME) about resistance management. The outcome of the discussions is that Frank, Gene Reagan, and I will plan to be in DC the same week in February. We will meet and discuss the similarities and critical differences in resistance management strategies and resistance terminology among our disciplines.

John Jachetta had asked me to inquire whether WSSA and EPA might partner to offer graduate (and maybe undergraduate) students internship opportunities at OPP. They are very interested in working with us, ESA, and APS to provide better information about job opportunities in EPA to our students. I will get more information about the program envisioned by the WSSA board and send it to Dan Kenny and Dan Rosenblatt. In addition, I plan to visit with Frank Wong and Gene Reagan in February about how the three societies can work together to bring information about careers and job openings in regulatory agencies to our students.

I attended a retirement reception for Jim Tompkins, Product Manager in the Herbicide Branch. Jim has 38 years of service with EPA and has an amazing knowledge of the herbicide registration process. He will be missed. I appreciated all the time he spent explaining to me how the organization works and reviews product labels.

Other activities: I had phone and email correspondence with EPA personnel during the quarter. In addition, I attended numerous teleconferences and a meeting in Greensboro, NC for the Herbicide Resistance Education Subcommittee (S 71) working on the herbicide resistance training modules. I am also working with a group to develop a resistance training module for NRCS. I have corresponded with John Jachetta and other officers as well as Lee Van Wychen during the quarter to keep them informed of my activities.

I completed a report on the NM tour that was held in August. The report was distributed to WSSA officers, all attendees and participants on the tour, and NMSU administrators. The report is posted at <http://wssa.net/WSSA/EPAliaison/documents/EPA%20New%20Mexico%20Tour%20Report%20Final.pdf>.

My next trip to EPA/OPP headquarters is tentatively scheduled for the week of February 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA