

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 1, 2010
Jill Schroeder
April 4, 2010

Schedule of first quarter visits:

January 11-15, 2010

March 29-April 1, 2010

Overview of Activities: I continue to visit the EPA-OPP headquarters one week every other month. In addition, I attended the WSSA and WSWS meetings and gave volunteer presentations on 2009 activities as WSSA SME to EPA (abstracts were submitted to both societies for publication). At WSSA, I met with the Board of Directors, the Science Policy Committee, the Herbicide Resistance Committee, HRAC, the affiliate societies Presidents and leaders (Presidents breakfast), presented a brief report at the business meeting, and had many informal discussions about activities and issues. I also attended two teleconferences in March: the Herbicide Resistance Committee met with Bill Chism, EPA/OPP/Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD) and the Herbicide Resistance Education Committee (S 71) had an organizing meeting.

January 2010: I attended the National Invasive Species Awareness Week; my contribution included inviting EPA staff (Jack Faulk and Arnet “Skee” Jones), on Lee Van Wychen’s behalf, to present information on the NPDES permits to the attendees. The presentation was excellent and agency managers had many questions that Jack and Skee answered during the session.

On Monday January 11, David Shaw and I attended (on Lee’s behalf since he was busy conducting the NISAW conference) a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACA) meeting called to discuss the potential impact of glyphosate resistant weeds on conservation compliance programs across the US. David presented the same seminar that he gave to EPA at this meeting. After several presentations, the group discussed how the issue of herbicide resistant weeds impacts conservation issues and began to develop a plan of action to address resistance management education at the retailer and producer level. David and I agreed that the issue of herbicide resistance management cuts across agencies and that WSSA needs to work with the agencies to provide the most up-to-date information and to develop a consistent message for users.

On January 13, John Jachetta and I met with EPA/RD staff and representatives of the Entomology Society (ESA). The ESA is interested in establishing a similar SME position where the individual would work with the Entomology Branches in the Registration Division.

March 2010: I met with Dan Kenny and members of the Herbicide Branch on a number of topics. In addition, Kurt Getsinger, aquatics SME, was in DC for the week. Kurt, Lee, and I met with Bill Chism (BEAD) on Herbicide Resistance Management and Susan Lewis (Associate Director, BEAD) and Jack Faulk (Office of Water, OW) on the status of the NPDES process. We attended the monthly FICMNEW meeting where Allison Wiedeman (OW) provided an update on the NPDES process. The committee had many questions about the permits and procedures under consideration that may impact the management of invasive plants by their agencies. Kurt and I discussed our roles as subject matter experts and briefed the group on other issues being addressed by EPA including herbicide resistance management and spray drift. The group members expressed an interest in the work being done by the S71 committee to assemble educational materials on herbicide resistance management.

The dates of my next visit to EPA headquarters have not been finalized. I will continue to interact with the S71 committee and Science Policy Committee during the next quarter. We continue to make plans for a tour of New Mexico riparian and irrigation canal weed issues during the summer of 2010. Dates, tour stops, and attendees will be determined in the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA