Subject: ESA Liaison to EPA-OPP—Report

March 2, 2012


Follow-up with ESA Central was renewed for open access publication usage by non-ESA Office of Pesticide Program staff members (15 individuals) in 2012. These individuals are predominantly doing work involving entomology and insecticide labels but are not members of ESA (weed scientists, plant pathologists or trained in other areas of biology). All 13 scientists set up for 2011 were maintained, plus two additional names submitted. Appreciation was expressed for these and other ESA efforts to help EPA improve labeling quality and efficiency. Liaison activities include on-site visits, participation in conference calls, preparation of on-going assignments for two EPA-OPP branches, participation in training sessions, communication with several ESA members on ESA-EPA interactions, and delivery of other ESA meeting presentations. Specific activities and meetings involved the Insecticide-Rodenticide Branch, Insecticide Registration Branch, the Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD), the Reduced Risk Program, the Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED), and the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD). Including monthly resistance management work group meetings (BEAD), joint participation with the WSSA liaison has shown considerable synergism.

During my last visit (January 23rd-26th), I was invited to participate in a multi-branch reduced risk registration meeting set up for industry presentation of new chemistry for field crop piercing-sucking insects (pre-meeting preparation included an opportunity to review all submitted materials). As ESA subject matter expert, I was asked for input on habitat conditions at a time when the chemical would be used, as well as knowledge of bee activity and pollination. After the company completed this presentation and left the meeting, I was asked to stay and participate in discussions through the remaining in-house deliberations. I believe my input helped lead to the approval of this chemistry. Other meetings on various stages of labeling of chemistry also involved input from the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy. Because of EPA sensitivities regarding some of this kind of information, my relationship at OPP has been carefully cultivated, building on what I feel are established trusts. The invited presentation by EPA’s Lois Rossi to the P-IE section at the national ESA meeting was very complimentary of ESA’s work with EPA. During the Reno meeting, I participated in numerous US-IRAC (Insecticide Resistance Action Committee) activities and had follow-up individual discussions with many society members.

Other activities involve interactions with the registration division in preparation for the FIRA Scientific Advisory Panel presentation next week on the status of EPA’s work on bed bugs. Today, I will be participating by conference call in a meeting with several EPA divisions addressing how EPA could improve decision making and further incorporate principles of sustainability into its on-going work. Our involvement in this visionary activity is a result of previous interactions with the Associate Director of BPPD. During my next trip to OPP in April, I have been scheduled to lead a brown-bag lunch seminar on “Entomological Perspectives on Resistance Management.”

For the joint Southeastern/Southwestern branch meeting, I’m scheduled to lead a discussion on my EPA work next Tuesday at 9:12 AM (White Oak Lecture Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

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