



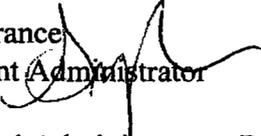
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 13 2001

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Worker Protection Standard Enforcement

FROM: Sylvia K. Lowrance
Acting Assistant Administrator 

TO: Deputy Regional Administrators, Regions I - X
Regional Counsel, Regions I - X
Regional Senior Enforcement Managers, Regions I - X

As mentioned during the OECA-Regional Senior Managers conference call on January 3, 2001, OECA is asking the Regions to offer legal assistance to their states in enforcement of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). As you know, the FIFRA WPS regulations became effective in 1995 and are intended to reduce pesticide exposure and injuries to the millions of farm workers in this country.

The attachment to this memorandum, a letter to state pesticide lead agency administrators, describes in more detail the current emphasis being placed on meeting the health and safety goals of the WPS. (Letters were sent to each state and tribal pesticide agency administrator.) The letter encourages states and tribes to work with EPA to maximize our collective efforts to ensure widespread compliance with the WPS regulations, and offers EPA legal support to the states and tribes, as the Regions' and Headquarters' resources allow.

To support the state and tribal programs and to help build regional WPS technical and legal expertise in the Regions, OECA intends to offer case development and legal training for WPS enforcement this summer at a centrally-located city. The Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division is coordinating this training effort. It is our hope that the case development and legal assistance will help relieve state resource issues, as well as help cement a state/EPA partnership and promote national consistency in this program. Further information will be forthcoming in the following weeks. If you have questions or suggestions to offer about the training, please contact Ann Pontius, Acting Director, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division. She can be reached at (202) 564-6266.

Attachment