

Office of

INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER



Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Hemp, Pesticide and Seed

Mark LeBlanc, Ph.D.
State Chemist &
Seed Commissioner

Purdue University • 175 South University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063
Telephone (765) 494-1492 • Facsimile (765) 494-4331
www.oisc.purdue.edu

June 21, 2022

Dear Pesticide State Lead Agency, Tribal, Territory or EPA Representative:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the ***Drift Investigations & Related Emerging Issues Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT)*** to be held Oct.3-6, 2022, in Indianapolis, IN. The program is being hosted by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The course will focus on drift investigation basics and challenges posed by atypical (non-ag) drift complaint investigations. Training will include sessions on drift label interpretation, interviewing techniques, building defensible cases, and a field trip to Purdue University. The program is intended to be interactive and includes sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Attendees should come away from this course with a solid set of investigation and case building skills.

This program is fully funded through a grant provided by U.S. EPA. Hotel and group meals will be paid directly by OISC. Participants will be reimbursed for other travel expenses including airfare, airline baggage fees, shuttle service, taxi, parking, mileage, and travel day per diems (according to GSA rates). The Bottleworks Hotel, the home base for the training, <https://www.bottleworkshotel.com/>, is located in Indianapolis, Indiana and is a short 25 to 30-minute drive from the Indianapolis International Airport. Participants will need a credit card or debit card at time of hotel check-in to cover any incidentals charged to the hotel.

EPA or other federal inspectors who are selected for the course will need to fund their own travel. OISC will book hotel rooms, but federal inspectors will be responsible to pay for lodging at the group rate. Federal inspectors must also pay a fee that covers included/shared meals and the field trip transportation, not to exceed \$200.00.

The program will begin Monday morning, October 3 and will conclude Thursday afternoon, October 6. Sunday, October 2nd and Friday, October 7th will be travel days. We realize this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, the OISC and EPA feel the curriculum will enhance the ability of your inspector to address a variety of drift investigations in your jurisdiction. Therefore, we request a commitment that participants attend the entire training.

Supervisors/Managers should complete the online nomination form for one inspector and one alternate by **July 20, 2022**. **[Access link to nomination form:](#)** If you have questions or problems accessing the nomination form, please contact the **OISC PIRT Team** at pirt@groups.purdue.edu.

Once the nomination form has been received, selected participants will be notified and additional information will be sent regarding travel arrangements, lodging, agenda, etc. Please feel free to forward this message as appropriate.

Sincerely,

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Joe Becovitz
Pesticide Program Specialist, OISC