



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

MAR 13 2017

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Ms. Barbara Morrissey, Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Washington State Department of Health
P.O. Box 47846
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Ms. Morrissey:

Thank you for your December 8, 2016, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA welcomes your comments and suggestions and will share them as we continue to work with our contractors and grantees on Worker Protection Standard (WPS) outreach.

Here are a few implementation activities that address some of your concerns:

- In late 2016, we established a contract with the Hispanic Communications Network (HCN) to develop a WPS multimedia campaign using clear and simple key messages on the regulation to Latino audiences across the United States and territories. Messages will be tested with appropriate focus groups before dissemination by radio, print and digital media. HCN is an established company with significant experience in Spanish-language communications. They are attuned to the cultural and linguistic needs of audiences with limited English proficiency and familiar with the WPS and agricultural community having worked with the EPA after the 1992 revision of the WPS. HCN regularly seeks input from other organizations concerned with the health and safety of farm workers, including the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) and Farmworker Justice. We anticipate HCN's campaign to begin reaching the agricultural community in April 2017.
- Last year we established a parallel contract with the CauseWay Agency to bring awareness of the revised WPS requirements to agricultural employers.
- We coordinated with federal agencies through a Federal Interagency Task Force, including the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Migrant Head Start, the Department of Labor Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Monitor Advocate System and others.

Your suggestions for protecting the families of owners of agricultural establishments ("family farmers") are appreciated, and we will incorporate as many of your recommendations as possible when we specifically target that segment of the regulated community. Please note that the revised WPS requires owners of agricultural establishments to comply with the application exclusion zone (AEZ) requirements. This topic will be a key part of our outreach to them.

You have identified a number of additional agencies and programs that we have not yet reached. As we develop outreach material, we will expand our coordination efforts, to the extent possible, with other agencies and programs. Your efforts to ensure that workers and the families of those workers in the agricultural industry are employed in a safe environment and your commitment to work closely with us is appreciated.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wendy C. Hamnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and "H".

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
Acting Assistant Administrator