FQPA opened industry's eyes in '98

COLUMBUS, OHIO —Widespread industry concern this past year over implementation of The Food Quality Protec-

tion Act of 1996 (FQPA) had some positive effects, said Anne R. Leslie, a former official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This concern, expressed in letters and meetings with federal office-holders, focused on the EPA's methods for review of pesticide residues on foods, and whether these methods were fair and accurate, said



Former EPA official
Anne R. Leslie

Leslie, a speaker at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference here in December. The greatest fear by pesticide-using industries

> like agriculture and turf/ornamental care is that the FQPA will result in the loss of popular chemical control products.

> The climax of this concern in 1998 was a memo from Vice President Al Gore to the EPA in April. The memo instructed the EPA to:

- ensure that its decisions are made based on the best available science.
- ease the transition to new pest management strate-

gies for affected pesticide users.

- ▶ make the regulatory process transparent.
- ▶ consult with affected stakeholders. Also, it led to the establishment of the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) in 1998. TRAC consisted of representatives from growers, pesticide registrants, food processors, environmental groups and medical professionals.

Although uncertainty remains about FQPA's effects on the green industry, she said that the EPA is trying to make its decision making process more transparent.

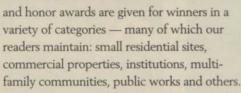
While the FQPA attracted much of the attention of professional pesticide

users, Leslie reported that the EPA nevertheless registered 27 new pesticides this past year. These included 14 "reduced risk" pesticides and 13 conventional chemicals. It also approved 12 biopesticides and 2 antimicrobials, said Leslie, who retired from the EPA this past summer and now consults on IPM and pesticide issues.

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The first of several

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