

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2008-56  
August 28, 2008

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Potter County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On August 20, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of one female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp in Potter County, Pennsylvania. This woodwasp was collected on Pennsylvania State Game Lands from a Lindgren trap baited with the standard 70:30 alpha and beta pinene lure. To date, cooperative State and Federal survey efforts have detected *S. noctilio* in 7 Pennsylvania counties (including Potter), 4 Michigan counties, 29 New York counties, and 1 Vermont County. *Sirex noctilio* is also known to be present in 25 counties in Ontario Province, Canada.

*Sirex noctilio* is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. Management programs that integrate quarantine, biological, and cultural control techniques have been developed by other countries to mitigate the impact of this forest pest.

PPQ's Center for Plant Health, Science, and Technology (CPHST) is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the U.S. Promising results were obtained by CPHST during 2007 pilot studies of a parasitic nematode, *Beddingia siricidicola*. Required environmental documentation is being completed and permit applications have been submitted for fall field trials with *B. siricidicola*. The proposed U.S. phytosanitary actions that will prohibit the movement of pine commodities from infested and exposed areas are currently in departmental review.

For more information about *Sirex noctilio*, please contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, PPQ's *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator, at Area Code (301) 734-7228.

/s/ John H. Payne /for

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