

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2005-38
November 10, 2005

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Selection of Directors for the Eastern and Western Regions

I am pleased to announce the selection of Victor Harabin as Director of the Eastern Region, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Phillip Garcia as Director of the Western Region, Fort Collins, Colorado. Each brings a wealth of experience and expertise to their new positions and will provide additional depth and vision for PPQ and our Executive Team. Their commitment to PPQ's mission has been clear and steadfast over the course of their careers and their variety of PPQ experience will only serve to enrich their perspective.

Vic obtained a BA in Biology from Rutgers University in 1976. He began his USDA career in 1978 with the Agricultural Marketing Service's Federal Grain Inspection Service in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1980, he transferred to APHIS/PPQ as a PPQ Officer in New Orleans, where he carried out AQI, domestic surveys, and regulatory activities. In 1985, Vic transferred to the Professional Development Center in Frederick, Maryland, to work on rewriting PPQ's field manuals. In 1992, he took his next assignment heading up the Permit Unit in Hyattsville, Maryland, where, among other duties, he oversaw the initiation of regulatory revisions to allow new commodities into the United States, most notably Mexican Hass avocados. In 1995, Vic was selected as the State Plant Health Director for North Carolina. In 1998, he was selected as Assistant Regional Director for PPQ's Eastern Region when it consolidated to Raleigh, North Carolina, as part of the APHIS regional consolidation.

Vic and his wife Angelika live in Raleigh. They have a daughter attending North Carolina State University and a son who is a junior in high school.

Phil graduated from the University of Southern Colorado in 1975 with a B.S. in Biology. He worked for several years with the National Park Service and U.S. Customs Service. In 1979, he began his career with APHIS/PPQ in San Juan, Puerto Rico as a PPQ Officer. In 1983, he moved into the management ranks when he transferred to Texas. While based in Texas, Phil participated in and managed a variety of PPQ pest exclusion, pest management, and emergency programs. In 2000, Phil was selected as Assistant Regional Director for PPQ's Western Region when it consolidated to Fort Collins, Colorado, as part of the APHIS regional consolidation.

Phil and his wife Debbie enjoy spending time with family and friends in the beautiful Colorado outdoors. They reside in Livermore, Colorado.

Please join the Deputy's Office in welcoming Vic and Phil to their new and challenging positions.



Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine