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Division of Science, Research and Technology  
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February 5, 2001

Dr. Scott Masten  
NIEHS/NTP  
P.O. Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Masten,

We would like to comment on the Federal Register Notice of December 4, 2000 entitled Request for Comments on Substances Nominated to the National Toxicology Program for Toxicological Studies and on the Testing Recommendations Made by the NTP Interagency Committee for Chemical Evaluation and Coordination. The Division of Science, Research, and Technology is the research and technical support division of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Our responsibilities include developing health-based criteria for environmental contaminants as well as supervising and interpreting genetic toxicology studies of environmental samples.

Two of our scientists, Dr. Lee Lippincott and Dr. Gloria Post, participated in the Drinking Water Research Needs Expert Workshop held in Leesburg, VA in September 1999. The chemicals listed in the Federal Register notice as drinking water contaminants are those which the Health Effects Workgroup at this workshop recommended as being of high health concern, due to existing data suggesting high potential for adverse human health effects and/or high potential for human exposure through drinking water. We therefore concur with the recommendations on the list.

We support the validation of transgenic mouse assays for mutagenicity and carcinogenicity in a variety of toxic chemicals. If found to be valid, these assays will be able to identify mutagens more accurately than in vitro tests and carcinogens more rapidly than classic rodent two-year bioassays.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Eileen Murphy, Ph.D, Assistant Director

c: Thomas Atherholt  
Lee Lippincott  
Gloria Post