



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston, VA 20192



In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 150
#GS00000940



AUG 11 2010

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes, Director
National Toxicology Program
Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 1223, Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Rear Admiral Stokes:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon the evaluation reports (NIH Publication Numbers 10-7551, 10-7552, and 10-7512) describing the performance and applicability domain of the modified murine localized lymph node assays. Earlier versions of these documents describing the new test methods were reviewed and commented upon by U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reviewers had laudatory comments about the documents and offered a few minor comments, which have been addressed in the documents describing the new test methods and applicability domain.

Although the DOI conducts ecotoxicological research and monitoring of fish and wildlife, it has very limited regulatory authority for chemicals and pharmaceuticals. At present, the DOI does not evaluate the potential of substances to cause contact dermatitis. Nonetheless, we do support these new LLNA test methods that reduce the number of test animals in such evaluations. We are pleased to assist in such reviews and will gladly provide indepth comments on those test methods that are more closely allied to our mission.

Sincerely,

/s/

William H. Werkheiser
Regional Director, Eastern Region