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RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

APRIL 30, 2012

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency
Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Rear Admiral Stokes:

I am replying to Dr. Linda Birnbaum's letter dated February 1, 2012, requesting the Department of Defense's review of the suitability of an alternative testing method recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) for the Department's use in research. This alternative method, BG I Luc4E2 Estrogen Receptor Transcriptional Activation, is described in NIH Publication No. 11-7850. The method can be used to screen substances to identify which substances have *in vitro* estrogen receptor agonist or antagonist activity. The Department of Defense agrees with ICCVAM that the BG I Luc4E2 Estrogen Receptor Transcriptional Activation test method is scientifically valid when the method is used according to the directions in the NIH publication.

The Department of Defense will use a variety of mechanisms to educate researchers and encourage the use of this method for Department -sponsored research when appropriate. The Department of Defense will inform scientists and veterinarians about this method through activities such as newsletters and training sessions for both Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members and laboratory personnel. Extramural scientists supporting Department research will be informed of these alternative test methods through their interactions with Department of Defense personnel supporting the research. The Department of Defense takes very seriously our responsibility to develop and encourage methods that replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in research.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick A. Mason, Ph.D., SES
Director, Human Performance, Training &
BioSystems