



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Dr. Gerald LeBlanc  
Chair, Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Advisory Committee  
Environmental and Molecular Toxicology  
North Carolina State University  
Campus Box 7633  
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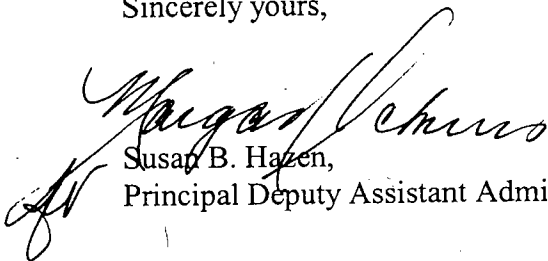
Dear Dr. LeBlanc:

In response to your letter dated May 3, 2005, I would like to thank the Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Advisory Committee (EDMVAC) for its careful review and consideration, at its April 2005 meeting, of the pre-validation study data for the sliced testes steroidogenesis assay.

EPA agrees with the Committee that the cell-based H295R steroidogenesis assay looks more promising than the current form of the sliced testes assay. We also agree that central to the success of any cell-based assay is the development of improved methods to differentiate between overt cytotoxicity and specific effects on the steroidogenesis pathway. Therefore, we are focusing our efforts on the validation of the H295R assay, because we believe this assay does not have problems associated with cytotoxicity.

Again, I wish to thank you for your participation as chair as well as other members of the EDMVAC. Your input represents valuable contributions to the Agency's ability to develop a scientifically-based Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program.

Sincerely yours,

  
Susana B. Hazen,  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

cc: Clifford Gabriel, OPPTS, OSCP  
Timothy Oppelt, ORD