



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

JUN 7 2006

The Honorable Carl Levin  
United States Senator  
124 West Allegan, Suite 1810  
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1716

Dear Senator Levin:

I am responding to your letter to Dr. Dana B. Barr regarding the status of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pilot project using archived dried blood spots to evaluate exposure to environmental chemicals in the Gratiot County area of Michigan.

The Environmental Health Laboratory at CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) is developing a protocol that will allow us to obtain the approval of, or an exemption from, CDC's Institutional Review Board (IRB) to participate in this human-subject research project. The Michigan Department of Community Health also requires IRB approval or exemption before CDC can obtain access to the archived blood spots.

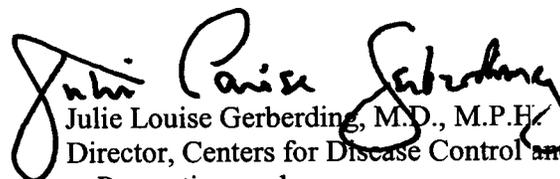
Enclosed is a proposed timeline for completing this pilot project. Assuming that the health department will take less than a month to locate and send the blood spots to CDC, the project should be completed by mid-August 2006.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this timeline, please contact Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director, NCEH/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (404) 498-0004 or by e-mail to [HFRumkin@cdc.gov](mailto:HFRumkin@cdc.gov). You may also write to Dr. Frumkin at the following address:

Director, NCEH/ATSDR  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., MS E-28  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Thank you for your interest in this study, and I hope this information is helpful. A copy of this correspondence is being mailed to your Washington, D.C., office. I also will provide this response to Senator Debbie Stabenow who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,



Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director, Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention, and  
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry

Enclosure

**Proposed Timeline for Completion of CDC Pilot Project  
Involving Archived, Anonymous Dried Blood Spots**

- April 30, 2006: Complete development of protocol. Forward copy to the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force.
- May 20, 2006: Assess the sensitivity of the published methodology measuring DDE (dichloroethylene) in blood spots. If current technology has sufficient sensitivity, validate methodology. However, if current technology is insufficiently sensitive, it will not be possible to continue with this pilot project.
- May 20, 2006: Obtain IRB approval/exemption for protocol.
- May 21, 2006: Submit exemption to Michigan Department of Community Health and request 20 archived, anonymous dried blood spots.
- 2 weeks from receipt of blood spots:  
Obtain data on p, p'-DDE and other persistent organic pollutants from dried blood spots
- 1 week after completion of analyses:  
Set up meeting with Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force to discuss the feasibility of developing a larger project based on results of the pilot project.

Please note that each task depends on the successful completion of the previous task. If for some reason the previous task is not successfully completed (e.g., technology is insufficiently sensitive or IRB denies approval), the project cannot continue.