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Edward C. Lorenz
c/o Pine River Group
P.O. Box 172
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Dear Mr. Lorenz,

It was a pleasure to speak with you, the Pine River group, and others last week about the potential for using archived newborn dried blood spots for assessing exposure to polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and the insecticide p,p'-dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). As I mentioned during our conversation, CDC's original exploratory research into the utility of dried blood spots as a medium for evaluating environmental exposures was conducted in the early 1990s by Mr. Virlyn Burse. Although Mr. Burse is no longer at CDC, we still maintain an interest in dried blood spots.

Because the potential for exposures to persistent environmental contaminants was greater while these chemicals were in use, archived samples in Michigan may have higher concentrations than other samples to which we may have access. Thus, we are very interested in testing our advanced analytical technology with some of the archived samples to determine whether we can detect these chemicals in such a small amount of blood and whether storage conditions contaminated the spots, thus compromising the results. We propose to have someone anonymously select 10-20 of these archived blood spots and send us a portion of the spot and a portion of the card which has no spot. These samples would be totally anonymous and devoid of any personal identifiers or codes which could potentially be linked to individuals. This would allow us to adequately test the feasibility of using archived dried blood spots for retrospectively testing exposure. I emphasize that these spots would be totally unlinked to any individual and would be used only to test the feasibility for using these spots for classifying exposure to PBBs and DDT. Because of our keen interest in this potential use for the blood spots, our laboratory would be willing to absorb all costs associated with the analytical testing of the samples.

Sincerely yours,

Dana B. Barr

Dana B. Barr, Ph.D.
Chief, Pesticide Laboratory