



June 28, 2002

Environmental Health Services  
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Ms. Valois Shea  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 8, 8P-W-GW  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

Dear Ms. Shea:

Ongoing research involving CWD at the CDOW laboratory has been reviewed and approved by the Colorado State University Biosafety Committee. Annual renewals for each project are required, and have been submitted and approved. Any animal tissue will be handled according to standard operating procedures approved by the Colorado State University Biosafety Committee. Small samples of tissues from the central nervous system of infected animals will be removed from the animal carcass. The remaining carcass will be destroyed using a sodium hydroxide high pressure tissue digestion, a method which is known to deactivate prions. Any infected tissue remaining at the Foothills Laboratory facility will be handled and disposed of as "BioHazardous" material. All laboratory surfaces which have been in contact with tissue potentially infected with prions will be treated with disinfectants known to be effective in deactivating prion types similar to the CWD agent. Only disinfected fluids will flow into the facility sinks and floor drains and then into the septic system. The small volume of lab waste stream containing trace amounts of disinfectants should be diluted enough by the much larger volume of sanitary waste to prevent the disinfectants from affecting the septic system biota.

Small amounts of raw animal blood will be disposed of in the septic system. According to the World Health Organization, blood can be regarded as non-infectious for the purposes of prion infection control. Therefore, the blood probably will not be introducing any infectious prions into the subsurface.

Please contact me if there are further issues to resolve before a permit can be issued.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Ellis, PhD, CBSP (ABSA), SM (NRM)  
Professor and Biosafety Officer

Cc: Earlie Thomas, Director, EHS