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To ANN LINSEY	From D. SMALL
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Arnold T. Mosberg, Ph.D.
Senior Manager, Toxicology Division
R.J.Reynolds Tobacco Company
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Dear Dr. Mosberg:

The Sprague Dawley rats received from Charles River Laboratories on January 10, 1996 for TOX-073 originated from CRL's Kingston, New York facility, Area K-92. Unlike the Raleigh CRL facility, several areas at Kingston, including K-92 contain rats infected with Orphan Parvovirus (OPV). The receipt of these rats MAY have introduced OPV into the facility.

As a class, parvoviruses (PV) are small, non-enveloped, single stranded, DNA viruses. They are resistant to drying, many disinfectants, and, while not constantly shed, are persistent in their hosts. Mice and rats have their own specific PVs. While they cross react serologically in some assays, they do not cross infect. The first rat parvovirus was designated "rat virus" (RV) by Kilham and is frequently referred to as "KRV." The rat OPV are related to but not identical to KRV. Unlike KRV, no known lesions are attributed to rat OPV. KRV and many other PV attack rapidly dividing tissues, resulting in cell lysis. This is especially true of nervous tissue.

My concerns are as follows:

I. Until now you have used only virus free rats from the CRL Raleigh facility. The continued presence of the rats from CRL Kingston will most likely serve to "permanently" contaminate your facility with OPV. There is the remote possibility these 5-6 wk old rats received from Kingston were protected from infection by maternal antibody and are not carrying virus. Information provided me on some experiments in progress using mouse OPV and earlier studies of mine and others with Sendai virus and pneumonia virus of mice support this possible outcome.

II. The use of these rats in the inhalation equipment will undoubtedly result in viral contamination of the equipment, should they be infected.

III. With time, decontamination of the animal facilities and experimental equipment will be difficult, time consuming, and subject to failure.