



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

16 September 2010

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman  
Chief, Branch of Permits  
Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

Re: Permit Application No. PRT-14287A0  
(Pennsylvania State University)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The applicant is requesting authorization to import from Norway blood samples from up to 18 polar bears for population genetics analyses. The samples were legally collected in Svalbard by researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute for use in a long-term study on the population demography and population genetics of polar bears in the Barents Sea.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service issue the requested permit, provided that the permit holder is required to obtain all necessary permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora before importing the specimens.

The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director