



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

11 February 2011

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-28829A
(Floragenex, Inc.)

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.

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 applicant is requesting authorization to import from Canada tissue samples (up to 30 vials, each containing 50 ml of tissue) from up to 30 polar bears for population genetics analyses. The samples were legally collected in Canada by Canadian and U.S. researchers as part of a long-term population monitoring effort in the Canadian Arctic. The samples are currently archived at the University of Alberta, which has contracted with the applicant to do the analyses. The applicant proposes to use single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping to help delineate and assess population genetic structure within and among sub-populations of polar bears and to aid in defining current population delineation.

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 and other applicable laws.

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