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From:Zazenski, Rich (LNA) [Rich.Zazenski@america.luzenac.com]Sent:Thursday, January 06, 2005 4:01 PMTo:Mann, Steven [CPCUS]Subject:OMB LetterAttachments:OMB letter to NIH.pdf

Steve - Here is the letter from the head of OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to the Director of NIH. Note the stern tone of OMB's "concerns" about NTP. Keep in mind that the Director of NIH has an annual budget of \$28 BILLION. NIEHS which administers the NTP program has a budget of \$650 MILLION. You can bet that Zerhouni at NIH sent word to Olden at NIEHS to implement OMB's recommendations "pronto" - with an additional order to improve your process to prevent any more data quality challenges. With a \$28 billion budget to protect, NIH doesn't want any more heat from OMB.

This could be significant for us because we (CRE) have been warning NTP that they can expect more data quality challenges on the basis that the talc nomination categories are overly broad and do not specifically exclude talc containing asbestos. Perhaps they are now reconsidering the nominations.

<<OMB lcttcr to NIH.pdf>>

1