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A-01-0078

April 24, 2001

Mr. Bradford Duplisea
Canadian Health Coalition
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 8X7

Dear Mr. Duplisea:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your undated request under the Access to Information Act for the following information:

"Provide all information (minutes and documentation) pertaining to the work of the "TSE Team" and/or "vCJD Team" pertaining to the time period 1996-present."

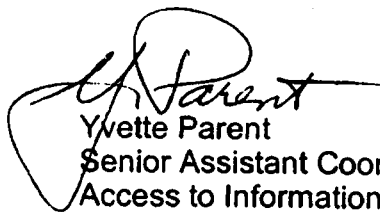
I am pleased to inform you that I have been assigned to process your request which was received on April 23, 2001.

Please be informed that you may be required to pay additional fees in accordance with section 11 of the Act. The charges may cover search and preparation time in excess of five hours at a cost of \$2.50 per quarter hour and/or the cost of reproduction calculated at 20 cents per page. You will be notified of any amount required.

If you require any information or wish to clarify any aspect of your request, I may be contacted by mail at the address noted above, by telephone or by fax.

Please refer to our file number (A-01-0078) on all future correspondence pertaining to this request.

Yours sincerely,



Yvette Parent
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Access to Information
and Privacy

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This document was obtained
through Access-to-Information
by Ottawa-based Researcher
Bradford Duplisea

**Health Canada TSE Team meeting
October 30, 1997 (9 a.m.- noon)**

Participants:

L.Boag
C.Choquet (secretary)
D.Kennedy
S.Thompson
B.Wozny

The meeting began with Dr. G. Paterson (DG Food Directorate) giving an update on the HC/CFIA meeting that had been held the day before. He stated that the HC TSE Team had been sanctioned by HPB & that we (the group) were invited to attend the Program Management Board presentation in December (date to be determined, December 9 or 16).

Agenda was approved.

General meeting rules were discussed wrt. Confidentiality. Any/everything that was discussed in confidence in these meetings should remain that. Notes should not be taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes to the HC/CFIA meeting of September 16th would be revised & circulated following the next meeting scheduled for January 1998. An update of ACTION items from the last meeting ensued: Scrapie Control Program - A letter was sent to R. Rogers with detailed testament of HRDs dating back to 1991 regarding HC's recommendations regarding the need/continuation of this program. A second letter was discussed with HC supporting the WHO recommendation of the elimination of species with TSEs from the food chain. ACTION: Lynn to forward letter to Ron. Ruminant blood for consumption - A response has been drafted. ACTION: Lynn to discuss with Maura. Most other action items completed.
2. Discussion/Consensus
Qs&As to be compared with document from CFIA. ACTION: Lynn.
HC's response to EU SRM Ban. ACTION: Lynn to circulate.
Trilateral Briefing Note. ACTION: Request for comments to Lynn by Nov.3.
Reporting Structure & List of activities RE: BSE/TSE - some still outstanding or need updating. ACTION: Lynn to recirculate Food example; outstanding to be submitted to Lynn.
Forward - some changes suggested. ACTION: Lynn to revise & submit.

Resources Letter - OK.

3. Deck for the PMB
See above.
4. Update on:
HRD: Food
CFIA is reviewing this. A small HC working group is to be set up to discuss this with CFIA. Penny will be our contact at CFIA. ACTION: Bruce, Maura & Lynn

TPP Policy

R-R feedban - Should there be a date for this ban?

Addresses BSE but not Scrapie i.e. TSE free materials from BSE free country
What other controls should be in place? ACTION: Lynn to send additional wording RE: controls that should be in place & the Canadian Scrapie Control program since disease is endemic in most of the world.

HRD: Gelatin

ACTION: A small HC working group is to be set up to discuss this with CFIA.

Graham will be our contact at CFIA. Once US Policy is reviewed & HRD finalized, CFIA will review this. ACTION: Teleconference scheduled for Nov 4. Bruce, Maura & Lynn

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NO new hot issues presently.
2. Presentation postponed to future date.
3. Teleconference scheduled for November 4 to discuss organ concoctions with CFIA.
4. Learning for Leadership forms given out for feedback on Lynn's leadership skills?
5. Meeting with CFIA - October 29, 1997
Highlights - CFIA does not appear to see BSE as a human health issue; instead they appear to see it as an animal health issue. Identification of the lead role not established. In a ranking sense on the 3 unresolved issues with CFIA, I ranked gelatin as #1. Some question as to why rendering process in different countries has not been standardized. ACTIONS: HRDs to be discussed with small working group. nv-CJD Emergency Response plan to be sent to CFIA. List to be compiled of HC's Response Crisis Team with lead role identified. Discussion to ensue on the possibility of a mock-up. Lynn to get and send out CFIA

organizational chart.

6. Meetings

USA SEAC mtg - Rockville, MD October 6&7 ACTION: Doug and Maura to update.

TSE Workshop - Washington, November 17&18 ACTION: Doug and Lynn to update.

Highlights of TSE Team Teleconference, Sept. 23/98

Members on call: Lynn Boag, Hugh Davis, Jeff Farber, Elizabeth Stratton, Diane Kirkpatrick.

Regrets: Doug Kennedy, Maura Ricketts

The purpose of the call was to discuss a number of issues relevant to the exchange of correspondence between Lynn and Penny Greenwood (CFIA) dealing with Canada's current regulatory and enforcement actions aimed at preventing transmission of the prion agent to ruminants from their feed.

Key points which emerged as well as action items are noted below.

- (1) There is recent evidence from a study in mice (Nature, Adriano Aguzzi) that blood cells can carry the prion agent from the gut to the brain. This has implications insofar as the current exemption of blood in the prohibition of ruminant tissues in ruminant feeds. In addition, the sensitivity of methodology for enforcement purposes precludes affirmation of absence of ruminant tissues. Since the infectious dose is unknown, no amount of prion agent can be considered "safe" at this time. In order to better assess the significance of the findings as reported in Nature, Liz agreed to circulate a copy of the paper to all TSE Team members. *Ab, Liz*
- (2) In April 1996, WHO recommended a world-wide ban on the use of ruminant tissues in ruminant feeds. They also, however, made recommendations on the safety of specific products including blood. There is some uncertainty as to whether this latter recommendation as meant for human ingestion to change the broader ban proposal such that these products would be permissible in ruminant feeds. Diane agreed to pursue clarification of this matter by contacting Ron-Burke so as to ascertain what information was available at the time the recommendations were developed. Liz also agreed to send TSE Team members a copy of a paper re: heat acting as a "fixing" agent in processes which is relevant to discussions about the safety of gelatin and tallow in gelatin. *Done ✓*
- (3) At present, Canada's ruminant feed ban is based on review of quality management systems through documentation and on-site visits at rendering plants and feed manufacturers. As noted by CFIA, this is similar to other countries and results from the absence of any validated methodology to detect ruminant materials in ruminant feed. It was felt that this approach may be the only means at present but test development was necessary and essential. In the interim, there is a need to ensure adequate audit measures of the current approach. Lynn agreed to follow-up on audit measures with Sharon Chard. *✓*

- (4) A trading partner has apparently questioned Canada's current import policy re: no exemption on meat from bovines less than 6 months of age. There are several outstanding issues that would need to be addressed before consideration could be given to such a request. These include determination of incubation period (currently believed to be some 3 years; youngest clinical case reported at 22 months); methodology to determine such clinical disease/health; animals as carriers of the agent. CFIA have requested supporting documentation be forwarded to them for our review upon receipt.
- (5) The TSE Team discussed a potential concern about introducing another disease/issue when changing natural courses i.e. changing herbivores into carnivores and when the same species is fed back to itself increasing the possibility of disease emergence. Reference was made to a clipping in ANET entitled "Emerging Zoonosis" and it was generally agreed that there was evidence to support this concern. It was agreed that the TSE Team should document available evidence so as to open discussions on this issue with our partners, notably, CFIA.

●
*Lynn
permitted
to all
clips*

Originators: Diane Kirkpatrick / Lynn Boag
Health Protection Branch
October 6, 1998