



Environmental Research Center

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400

San Diego, CA 92108

619-500-3090

May 7, 2021

NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 *ET SEQ.* (PROPOSITION 65)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the Executive Director of Environmental Research Center, Inc. (“ERC”). ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

ERC has identified violations of California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (“Proposition 65”), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, ERC intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

General Information about Proposition 65. A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

Alleged Violators. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the “Violators”) are:

**Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners
Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners
Merica Labz, LLC
Merica Energy, LLC
Core Nutritionals LLC**

Consumer Products and Listed Chemical. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

1. **Core Nutritionals Fury Next Generation Pre-Workout Tropic Thunder - Lead**
2. **Core Nutritionals PRO Sustained Release Protein Blend Death By Chocolate - Lead**
3. **Core Nutritionals Fury X Comprehensive Energy And Pump Amplifier Australian Gummy Snakes - Lead**
4. **Core Nutritionals Fury X Comprehensive Energy And Pump Amplifier Star Candy - Lead**
5. **Core Nutritionals Pump Full-Spectrum Non-Stimulant Pre-Workout Cherry Burst - Lead**
6. **Core Nutritionals PWO Post-Workout Recovery Matrix Chocolate Brownie Batter - Lead**
7. **Core Nutritionals PR Series Vegan Gourmet Plant-Based Protein Blend Chocolate Brownie Batter - Lead**
8. **Core Nutritionals PR Series Vegan Gourmet Plant-Based Protein Blend Mixed Berry - Lead**
9. **Core Nutritionals Grow Whole Food Based Mass Blend Peanut Butter Pie - Lead**
10. **Core Nutritionals MRP Full Spectrum Meal Supplement Peanut Butter Oatmeal Cookie - Lead**
11. **Core Nutritionals Pump Pre-Workout Vasodilator And Performance Optimizer Pineapple Strawberry - Lead**
12. **Core Nutritionals MRP Full Spectrum Meal Supplement Vanilla Poundcake - Lead**
13. **Core Nutritionals ZZZ Night-Time Recovery And Sleep Support Cherry Bomb - Lead**

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.

It should be noted that ERC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

Route of Exposure. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least May 7, 2018, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and

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reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemical. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violators to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to ERC at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,



Chris Heptinstall
Executive Director
Environmental Research Center

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners; Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners; 'Merica Labz, LLC; 'Merica Energy, LLC; Core Nutritionals LLC and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners; Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners; 'Merica Labz, LLC; 'Merica Energy, LLC; and Core Nutritionals LLC

I, Chris Heptinstall, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am the Executive Director for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, and on other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged Violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.



Dated: May 7, 2021

Chris Heptinstall

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States and over the age of 18 years of age. My business address is 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

On May 7, 2021, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I verified the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; “THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY”** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to the parties listed below, through their attorney pursuant to agreement:

Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually
and dba The Nutrition Corners; Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC,
individually and dba The Nutrition Corners;
'Merica Labz, LLC; 'Merica Energy, LLC; and
Core Nutritionals LLC
c/o Garth N. Ward
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
633 West 5th St, Ste 4000
Los Angeles, Ca 90071
Email: Garth.Ward@lewisbrisbois.com

On May 7, 2021, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1)** were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice> :

Office of the California Attorney General
Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000
Post Office Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On May 7, 2021, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to each of the parties listed below:

Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney
Alameda County
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650
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CEPDProp65@acgov.org

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Barbara Yook, District Attorney
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Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney
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inyoda@inyocounty.us

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Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney
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1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

Alethea Sargent, Assistant District Attorney
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San Francisco District Attorney's Office
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alethea.sargent@sfgov.org

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Stockton, CA 95202
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

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edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
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Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney
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Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

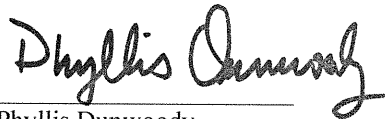
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Ventura, CA 93009
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Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney
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301 Second Street
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cfepd@yolocounty.org

On May 7, 2021, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents:
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.;
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on May 7, 2021, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



Phyllis Dunwoody

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Service List

District Attorney, Alpine
County
P.O. Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador
County
708 Court Street, Suite 202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte
County
25 County Center Drive, Suite
245
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Colusa
County
346 Fifth Street Suite 101
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte
County
450 H Street, Room 171
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado
County
778 Pacific St.
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno
County
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn
County
Post Office Box 430
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt
County
825 5th Street 4th Floor
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial
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940 West Main Street, Ste 102
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Kern County
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings
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Hanford, CA 93230

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Lakeport, CA 95453

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Hall of Justice
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Madera, CA 93637

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