

# **Environmental Research Center**

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108 619-500-3090

January 25, 2022

# 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.

<u>General Information about Proposition 65.</u> 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.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

Arms Race Nutrition, LLC
Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners
Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners
Core Nutritionals LLC
Dynamic Nutraceuticals, L.L.C.
Crush It Holdings, LLC
Crush It International, Inc.

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

- 1. Arms Race Nutrition Foundation Protein Blend Apple Fritter Lead
- 2. Arms Race Nutrition Daily Pump Stim-Free Pre-Workout Bombsicle Lead
- 3. Arms Race Nutrition Daily Pump Stim-Free Pre-Workout Pineapple Mango Lead
- 4. Arms Race Nutrition Harness Pre-Workout Limeade Lead
- 5. Arms Race Nutrition Daily Pump Stim-Free Pre-Workout Tart Candy Strings Lead
- 6. Arms Race Nutrition Daily Pump Stim-Free Pre-Workout Venice Beach Lead
- 7. Arms Race Nutrition Harness Pre-Workout Kiwi Strawberry 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 January 25, 2019, 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 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 Arms Race Nutrition, LLC, Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners, Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners, Core Nutritionals LLC, Dynamic Nutraceuticals, L.L.C., Crush It Holdings, LLC, Crush It International, Inc., 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 Arms Race Nutrition, LLC, Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners, Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners, Core Nutritionals LLC, Dynamic Nutraceuticals, L.L.C., Crush It Holdings, LLC, Crush It International, Inc.,

### 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: January 25, 2022	Soft State of the second secon	
	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 January 25, 2022, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served 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" on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties listed below and depositing it in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Arms Race Nutrition, LLC 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

Current President or CEO Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Current President or CEO Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Current President or CEO Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 820 N Pollard St RTL #3 Arlington, VA 22203

Current President or CEO Core Nutritionals LLC 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Current President or CEO Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 12551 Jefferson Ave, Ste 193 Newport News, VA 23602

Current President or CEO Core Nutritionals LLC 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625 Current President or CEO Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

Current President or CEO Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

Douglas Allen Miller (Registered Agent for Newport News Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and dba The Nutrition Corners) 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Douglas A. Miller (Registered Agent for Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually and The Nutrition Corners) 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Douglas A Miller (Registered Agent for Arms Race Nutrition, LLC) 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

Douglas Allen Miller (Registered Agent for Arms Race Nutrition, LLC) 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Douglas A. Miller (Registered Agent for Core Nutritionals LLC) 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Current President or CEO Dynamic Nutraceuticals, L.L.C. 1551 Salisbury Rd Statesville, NC 28677

Current President or CEO Crush It International, Inc. 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

Current President or CEO Crush It Holdings, LLC 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625 Jason D. Wolff (Registered Agent for Dynamic Nutraceuticals, L.L.C.) 1551 Salisbury Rd Statesville, NC 28677

Douglas Allen Miller (Registered Agent for Crush It Holdings, LLC) 604 Ware St SW Vienna, VA 22180

Douglas Allen Miller (Registered Agent for Crush It International, Inc.) 604 Ware St SW Vienna. VA 22180

Douglas A Miller (Registered Agent for Core Nutritionals LLC) 1415 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625

On January 25, 2022, 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 January 25, 2022, 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 Oakland, CA 94621 CEPDProp65@acgov.org

Barbara Yook, District Attorney Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney
Fresno County
2100 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

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Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney

Inyo County

168 North Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.us

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator

Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130 mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney

Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney

Merced County 550 West Main St Merced, CA 95340

Prop65@countyofmerced.com

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney

Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940

Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney

Napa County

1127 First Street, Ste C Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney

Nevada County 201 Commercial St Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney

Placer County

10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney

Plumas County 520 Main St Quincy, CA 95971

davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney

Riverside County 3072 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501 Prop65@rivcoda.org

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney

Sacramento County 901 G Street

Sacramento, CA 95814 Prop65@sacda.org

Summer Stephan, District Attorney

San Diego County 330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101

SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney

San Diego City Attorney 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101

CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney

San Francisco District Attorney's Office

350 Rhode Island Street San Francisco, CA 94103 Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney

San Francisco City Attorney 1390 Market Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney

San Joaquin County

222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202

Stockton, CA 95202

DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney

San Luis Obispo County

County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney

Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Santa Clara County 70 W Hedding St San Jose, CA 95110 EPU@da.sccgov.org

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney San Jose City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 96113 Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney Sonoma County 600 Administration Dr Sonoma, CA 95403 jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney Tulare County 221 S Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 95370 Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney Ventura County 800 S Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009 daspecialops@ventura.org

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 cfepd@yolocounty.org

On January 25, 2022, 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 January 25, 2022, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Phyllis Dunwoody

#### **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 310 6<sup>th</sup> St 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, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt County

825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial

County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243

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

District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles County Hall of Justice

211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012 District Attorney, Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Orange County 300 N Flower St Santa Ana, CA 92703

District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney,San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernadino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097 District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533 District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter County 463 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012