



Environmental Research Center

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

March 4, 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.

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. Merica Labz Red, White & Boom High Caliber Preworkout Ammunition Freedom - Mercury**

2. Merica Labz Red, White & Boom High Caliber Preworkout Ammunition 'Merican Made - Mercury
3. Merica Labz Red, White & Boom High Caliber Preworkout Ammunition Not Your Granny's Apple - Mercury
4. Merica Labz Red, White & Boom High Caliber Preworkout Ammunition 21 Fruit Salute - Mercury
5. Core Nutritionals MRP Full-Spectrum Meal Supplement Rich Chocolate- Mercury
6. Core Nutritionals Grow Whole Food Based Mass Blend Chocolate Bliss - Mercury
7. Core Nutritionals PRO Sustained Release Protein Blend Death By Chocolate - Mercury
8. Core Nutritionals PWO Post-Workout Recovery Matrix Chocolate Brownie Batter - Mercury
9. Core Nutritionals ISO Ultra-Pure Whey Protein Isolate Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup - Mercury
10. Core Nutritionals ISO Ultra-Pure Whey Protein Isolate Red Velvet Cake - Mercury
11. Core Nutritionals Test Healthy Testosterone Support Blackberry Lemonade - Mercury

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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 March 4, 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.

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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: March 4, 2022

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 March 4, 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
Arlington Nutrition Corner, LLC, individually
and dba The Nutrition Corners
820 N Pollard St RTL #3
Arlington, VA 22203

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
12551 Jefferson Ave, Ste 197
Newport News, VA 23602

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

Current President or CEO
Core Nutritionals LLC
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

Current President or CEO
'Merica Energy, LLC
1415 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625

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

Current President or CEO
'Merica Labz, LLC
1415 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625

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

Douglas Miller
(Registered Agent for 'Merica Energy, LLC)
604 Ware St SW
Vienna, VA 22180

Douglas Miller
(Registered Agent for 'Merica Labz, LLC)
1415 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625

Douglas Miller
(Registered Agent for 'Merica Labz, LLC)
604 Ware St SW
Vienna, VA 22180

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

Douglas Miller
(Registered Agent for 'Merica Energy, LLC)
1415 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625

On March 4, 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 March 4, 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

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

Barbara Yook, District Attorney
Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
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Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney
Mariposa County
P.O. Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338
mcda@mariposacounty.org

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney
Contra Costa County
900 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553
sgrassini@contracostada.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney
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550 West Main St
Merced, CA 95340
Prop65@countyofmerced.com

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

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney
Monterey County
1200 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney
Inyo County
168 North Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526
inyoda@inyocounty.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney
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1127 First Street, Ste C
Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

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

David Hollister, District Attorney
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520 Main St
Quincy, CA 95971
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney
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3072 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Prop65@rivcoda.org

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney
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901 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
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Summer Stephan, District Attorney
San Diego County
330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney
San Diego City Attorney
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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
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San Francisco, CA 94102
Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney
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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
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70 W Hedding St
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EPU@da.sccgov.org

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

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney
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701 Ocean Street
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Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney
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600 Administration Dr
Sonoma, CA 95403
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

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

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
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800 S Victoria Ave
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Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

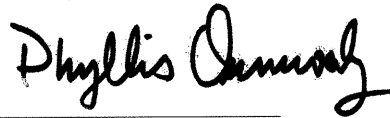
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Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney
Yolo County
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695
cfepd@yolocounty.org

On March 4, 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 March 4, 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 6th 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 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
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
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3501 Civic Center Drive,
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San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mendocino
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Ukiah, CA 95482

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

District Attorney, Mono
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Bridgeport, CA 93517

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

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

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San Bernadino, CA 92415

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Redwood City, CA 94063

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District Attorney, Solano
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Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus
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Modesto, CA 95354

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Marysville, CA 95901

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Los Angeles, CA 90012