



December 15, 2003

Edward Little, Branch Chief
Ecology Branch, U.S.G.S. BRD/CERC
Columbia, MO 65201

Re: Request for Proposal

Dear Dr. Little:

I'm writing on behalf of the Whirling Disease Steering Committee, to request that you submit a full proposal for 2004-2005 research funding of your whirling disease vector assessment project. The RFP is enclosed. The submittal deadline will be February 13, 2004. Please review both the 5-year research plan and the request for preproposals before preparing your proposal; they can be found at:

<http://water.montana.edu/mwc/programs/fisheries/whirling/>

Here are specific comments of the Steering Committee regarding your full proposal: please review the work of Rick Barrows on bird vectors, as reported at the Whirling Disease Symposium a few years ago (<http://www.whirling-disease.org/>). The committee views your draft budget as quite high. There will be three full proposals on this topic, and the committee will select the one that shows the best experimental/observational design and the most judicious use of WD Initiative funding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this solicitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Rupp".

Gretchen Rupp
Director

Gretchen Rupp, Director
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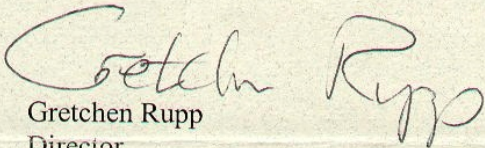
Re: Whirling Disease Initiative

Dear Mr. Little:

I am sorry to say that the Whirling Disease Steering Committee has decided not to request a full proposal from you for 2004-2005 research funding on filtration efficacy for whirling disease TAM removal. All of the membrane filtration techniques suggested for testing (with nominal pore sizes ranging from 0.08- 5 microns) would easily collect TAMs following exhaustive pre-filtration; thus there appears to be no reason to conduct such assays.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this decision.

Sincerely,


Gretchen Rupp
Director

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