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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 22, 2009

Mr. James Kubicina, Chairman
Rochester Hills Deer Management Advisory Committee
2423 Chalet Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307

Dear Mr. Kubicina:

Thank you for your June 24, 2009 letter requesting information regarding immunocontraception of white-tailed deer in Rochester Hills.

Currently, there are no drugs approved for use as deer contraceptives available to Michigan residents or communities. We have been informed that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently reviewing a registration application for the immunocontraceptive vaccine GonaCon,™ which was submitted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services (WS) in January 2009. Such reviews typically require 12 to 18 months to complete. It is uncertain if approval will occur, or precisely what regulations may be placed on the use of this drug. The U.S. Department of Agriculture WS will likely have additional decisions to make regarding the potential application of this product, if and when EPA approval occurs, and they may continue to play a role along with our agency in determining whether any future applications of this product will occur specifically in Michigan.

If a practical and effective drug becomes available for use in Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will evaluate the need for any research or pilot projects at that time. We do not anticipate that this will occur in the near future. It is important to note that the proposed label language for GonaCon™ indicates that, even if approved, the product is intended to be used in combination with other population management techniques. It is recognized that contraception alone cannot reduce deer populations determined to be at overabundant levels.

Thank you for your interest in managing urban deer in Michigan. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. John Niewoonder, Big Game Specialist, Wildlife Division, at 616-794-2658.

Sincerely,

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division
517-373-1263

cc: Mr. Michael Bailey, DNR
Mr. Timothy Payne, DNR
Mr. John Niewoonder, DNR

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