



From: David Rejeski [mailto:David.Rejeski@wilsoncenter.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Nichole_Lurie@rand.com; Lurie, Nicole
Subject: FDA and nanotechnology: Recommendations for the transition

January 7, 2009

TO: Nichole Lurie

FROM: David Rejeski
Director, Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies

SUBJECT: Nanotechnolgy & FDA: Policy Recommendations

As a member of the transition team for the Food and Drug Administration, I know you are focused on the many challenges currently facing the agency. One of the key challenges is nanotechnology, which is being used in an increasing number of products requiring potential FDA oversight.

Science magazine recently ranked the safety of nanotechnology as one of the next president's five most important science challenges. The safety of many of these nanotech products rapidly entering the marketplace-especially food and food packaging, sunscreens, cosmetics and dietary supplements-is FDA's responsibility.

The Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN), a joint initiative of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a leader in assessing FDA's capacity to maximize nanotechnology's promised benefits and to minimize its potential risks. Taken together, our reports and in-depth analysis-carried out by the country's most recognized experts in FDA oversight and nanotechnology risk-provide a roadmap for the new administration's successful management of this important new technology.

Despite all the policy challenges posed by nanotechnology, our experts believe there are early steps that can be taken to improve governance and oversight regarding the technology. One step is issuing clear guidance on how existing listings for food additives and "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) substances apply to nanoscale materials. This effort would increase consumer safety and private-sector investor confidence in this new technology.

I, along with PEN Chief Science Advisor Andrew Maynard, would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss this important issue in more detail. Attached to this message, I am sending you a short summary statement on FDA nanotechnology regulatory issues prepared by one of our project advisors, Michael Taylor. You also may want to search our online inventory of over 800 consumer products that manufacturers claim to be nanotechnology:

www.nanotechproject.org/consumerproducts



I hope it will be possible to meet with you in the near future to discuss this important issue.