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HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

October 11, 2012

Mr. Barry J. Cadden
Director of Pharmacy and Owner
New England Compounding Center
697 Waverly Street
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Mr. Cadden:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is examining the facts surrounding the recent outbreak of fungal meningitis linked to contaminated spinal steroid injections. Federal officials have linked the contaminated steroid to the New England Compounding Center (NECC) in Framingham, Massachusetts.

As of October 9, 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that eleven people have died and 119 people have been sickened across nine states. CDC also confirmed that the number of cases may rise in the coming weeks given that 13,000 patients have been injected with the drug product compounded and distributed by the NECC.

The Committee has a long bipartisan history of conducting drug safety oversight and is very concerned about these recent developments. We will be meeting with FDA, CDC and others that may provide insight into the details surrounding this outbreak and the prevention of future outbreaks. Given this continued interest, we ask that you preserve all documents and communications that may be relevant to understanding how the product was contaminated and distributed as well as the business practices of the NECC in general. In addition, we ask that you make arrangements with Committee staff to schedule a briefing on these matters to occur no later than October 18, 2012.

If you have any questions considering this request, please contact John Stone with the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member

Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Joseph Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

Frank Pallone, Jr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health

Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Health