

Suggested Protocol for Evaluating Prion Related Neurological Disease Cluster Areas

1. There is an urgent need for the creation of separate disease registries for each type of prion disease along with detailed maps that define cluster areas geographically and give information about individual cases. An in depth description and history of each cluster location should include geological surveys, history of the land, uses and previous pollution incidents, biosolids land applications, fertilizer uses and application, listing of obvious potential sources of problem substances, such as mines or smelters, previous forest fires, flooding, and information about surrounding watersheds to include lakes, rivers and oceans. Separate world maps should be created for scrapie in sheep, CWD in deer and elk, and BSE in cattle.
2. Information should be shared, not sequestered, especially that gathered using taxpayer funds. Openness and transparency are absolutely necessary among investigators if these mysterious diseases are to be studied, explained and ultimately prevented.

Specimen:	Organic chemicals	Heavy Metals	Radionuclides	Other
Group 1. Teeth Hair, horn, antlers Hoof trimmings or toenails		As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Mn, Mo, Ni, Pb, Se, Zn	U, Th, Ra, Rn, Cs, Sr, Po	Al, F, Li, P
Group 2. Blood or serum Fat Liver Kidneys Urine Bone	glyphosate PCBs, TCEs, PFCs including PFOAs and PFOSS, PAHs, PBDEs	“	“	“
Group 3. Brain tissue CSF if available	“	“	“	“
Group 4. Drinking water consumed by affected animals from wells, springs, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, streams or city water supplies	“	“	“	“ plus pH

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| Group 5.
Soils from forests,
farm fields nearby,
and near watering
areas or pastures | “ | “ | “ | “ |
| Group 6.
Plants in the habitat,
including tree leaves,
brush, weeds, ground-covers,
farm crops, forages, and pasture
grasses | “ | “ | “ | “ |
| Group 7.
Specimens specified in
Groups 1-3 originating from
other animals in the
affected animals' habitat:
birds, fish, small mammals,
predators if available | “ | “ | “ | “ |

Tests on locations should be done to detect ionizing radiation and if possible histopathology specimens from groups 1-3 and 7 should be evaluated for radiation effects from alpha particles and/or beta particles.

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