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REPORT SHEDS NO NEW LIGHT ON NANOTECHNOLOGY SAYS CRN

WASHINGTON, D.C., *January 15, 2009* — *In response to the publication of a report from the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN) on the regulatory challenges posed by nanomaterials, the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), the leading trade association representing the dietary supplement industry, issued the following statement.*

Statement from Andrew Shao, Ph.D., vice president, scientific and regulatory affairs, CRN:

“Nanotechnology has been used in various products for decades, including drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, conventional foods and dietary supplements. As the prevalence of nanomaterials continues to rise, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is examining how to best address this emerging technology in all regulated industries.

CRN applauds FDA for taking the initiative to explore what, if any, guidance or regulations for nanotechnology may be appropriate across all of its regulated industries. We question the true motives behind this report from the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN), which provides a very limited amount of useful information on nanotechnology and paints a misleading picture by implying that only one industry faces questions about nanotechnology. This report masquerades as a legitimate review of the use of nanomaterials in dietary supplements but in reality it seems to be an attempt to explain the authors’ views on dietary supplement regulations and their suggestions for change.

As far as we are aware, there are no specific safety issues associated with the use of nanotechnology. There is one area of agreement with the report: that FDA could use more resources to better do its job; however, adequate Agency funding and nanotechnology are not specific to dietary supplements—these issues affect all industries regulated by FDA. We encourage FDA to evolve with emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, and welcome further dialogue with the Agency on how to proceed with reasonable regulation of these new technologies—regulation that is able to be implemented by the industry, enforced by the Agency and would benefit consumers.”

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Note to Editor: The Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), founded in 1973, is a Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing dietary supplement manufacturers and ingredient suppliers. Visit www.crnusa.org.