# Exhibit 4

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta GA 30333 November 1, 2023

Aaron Siri Attorney Siri & Glimstad LLP 745 Fifth Ave. Suite 500 New York, NY 10151 Via email: foia@sirillp.com

Dear Mr. Siri:

This letter is regarding your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of January 16, 2023, assigned #23-00530-FOIA, for the attached request.

We located 22 pages of responsive records (22 pages released in full or part.) After a careful review of these pages, some information was withheld from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 Exemption(s) 5. The foreseeable harm standard was considered when applying these redactions.

#### **EXEMPTION 4**

Exemption 4 protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. We have determined that the information withheld is customarily and actually kept private and confidential by the submitter of the information. Examples include confidential and proprietary information related to a Vaccine Data Safety Link study.

### **EXEMPTION 5**

Exemption 5 protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. Exemption 5 therefore incorporates the privileges that protect materials from discovery in litigation, including the deliberative process, attorney work-product, and attorney-client privileges. Information withheld under this exemption was protected under the <u>deliberative process privilege</u>. The deliberative process privilege protects the decision-making process of government agencies. The deliberative process privilege protects materials that are both pre-decisional and deliberative. The materials that have been withheld under the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5 are both pre-decisional and deliberative, and do not contain or represent formal or informal agency policies or decisions. Examples of information withheld include pre-decisional and deliberative conversations about a VSD study.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6246 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, via the online portal at <a href="https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx.">https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx.</a>. Your appeal must be electronically transmitted by *January 30, 2024*.

Sincerely,

Roger Andoh

CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

(770) 488-6399

Fax: (404) 235-1852

Enclosures

23-00530-FOIA