SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Placement of MT—45 into Schedule I of the S.C. Controlled Substances Act

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Section 44-53-160(C), the South Carolina Board of Health and Environmental Control (Board) is authorized to add a substance as a controlled substance if the Federal government has so designated; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published on December 13, 2017, a final scheduling order to schedule the synthetic opioid MT-45 (Systematic IUPAC Name: 1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers, into Schedule I. Federal Register, Volume 82, Number 238, pp. 58557-58559; https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-13/pdf/2017-26853.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2016, the Secretary General of the United Nations advised the Secretary of State of the United States, by letter, that during the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, MT–45 was added to schedule I of the Single Convention. This letter was prompted by a decision at the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2016 to schedule MT–45 under schedule I of the Single Convention. As a signatory Member State to the Single Convention, the United States is obligated to control MT–45 under its national drug control legislation, the CSA, in the schedule deemed most appropriate to carry out its international obligations. 21 U.S.C. 811(d)(1); and

WHEREAS, substances listed in Schedule I are those that have a high potential for abuse, no currently acceptable medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision. MT–45 is an opioid analgesic drug with pharmacological effects similar to morphine. MT–45 was demonstrated to produce physical dependence in mice. This compound is a piperazine derivative and is structurally unrelated to most other opioids. There are two enantiomers of MT–45 (R and S). Both enantiomers bind to opioid receptors, however (S)-(+)-MT–45 binds with a greater affinity than that of (R)-(¥)-MT– 45. In functional studies, (S)-(+)-MT–45 has an analgesic effect similar to morphine. In comparison, the analgesic effect of (R)-(¥)-MT–45 is low. Starting in 2013, MT–45 began appearing on the internet for sale as a 'legal' opioid; and

WHEREAS, deaths associated with MT–45 abuse have occurred in the United States and in Europe. In addition, there have been at least 13 non-fatal overdoses associated with abuse of MT–45; and

WHEREAS, there are no published studies as to the safety of MT–45 for human use. The DEA is not aware of any claims or any medical or scientific literature suggesting that MT–45 has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Accordingly, the DEA has not requested that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) conduct a scientific and medical evaluation of the substance's medical utility. Furthermore, the DEA is not required under 21 U.S.C. 811(d)(1) to make any findings required by 21 U.S.C. 811(a) or 812(b), and is not required to follow the procedures prescribed by 21 U.S.C. 811(a) and (b). Therefore, consistent with the framework of 21 U.S.C. 811(d), the DEA concludes that MT–45 has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and is most appropriately placed in schedule I of the CSA.; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Health and Environmental Control adopts the federal scheduling of MT-45 and amends Section 44-53-190 by adding and designating into Schedule I of the South Carolina Controlled Substances Act: MT-45 (Systematic IUPAC Name: 1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers.

Allen Amsler, Chairman
S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control

January 4, 2018
Columbia, South Carolina