As with all research conducted at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), the Laboratory Director reserves the right to accept proposed experiments, request modifications or additional review, or reject proposed experiments. To ensure that the use of animals in research is conducted in accordance with the BNL mission, the process for triggering and implementing a Director-level review is detailed below.

At the time of proposal review by the BNL Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the IACUC Chair and/or Administrator will categorize the proposed research project as to whether the experimental protocol involves a USDA-regulated animal species\*. If the proposal involves a non-USDA-regulated species, only IACUC approval will be required. If the proposal involves a USDA-regulated species and the IACUC approves the protocol, the proposal will be forwarded to the Modified Institutional Risk Management Committee (MIRC) for further review. Laboratory approval will be withheld until the MIRC review process is complete and Laboratory Director approval is granted.

If MIRC review is warranted, information to be sent to the MIRC by the IACUC Chair and/or Administrator includes:

1. A short 1-2 page description of the project, written with sufficient detail in non-technical language, that includes a description of the research, its goals and expected scientific impact, the type and number of species, the reason these particular species were chosen, and their status at the conclusion of the work. This summary will be prepared by the IACUC Chair and/or Administrator with input solicited from PI.
2. If a more in-depth review by the MIRC is requested, a copy of the PI’s project grant proposal and associated peer review documentation is to be provided by the PI to the MIRC via the IACUC Chair and/or Administrator.

The MIRC will include:

1. Institutional Risk Management Committee (IRMC) – The IRMC is commissioned by the Laboratory Director to perform institutional performance and risk management monitoring and to recommend and/or decide on management actions in the broadly defined categories of Strategy, Reputation, Operational, Financial, and Tactical Risks (see the [Appendix B. Institutional Risk Management Committee [IRMC] Charter](https://sbms.bnl.gov/SBMSearch/ProgDesc/CAS/cas13e011.pdf) in the [Contractor Assurance System](https://sbms.bnl.gov/draft/ProgDesc/CAS/CAS_pd.cfm) Program Description).
2. Consultants as needed – Consultants may be BNL or non-BNL subject matter experts in a field relevant to the proposal.

The MIRC is expected to make recommendations to the Laboratory Director as quickly as the availability of the required information stated above allows, so as not to unduly impact the proposed research. The time frames given below are the maximum allowed to complete this MIRC review process.

Within 30 days of receiving the case from the IACUC, the MIRC review process shall:

1. Solicit additional input from the PI and the IACUC as needed.
2. Draft a recommendation to accept, request modifications or additional review, or reject the proposal.
3. Inform the PI, IACUC Chair and Administrator, and managers of the BNL Laboratory Animal Facility (BLAF) and relevant user facility in which experiments are to be conducted (e.g., NSRL, NSLS-II) of their recommendation.
4. If modifications are requested, these are to be supplied within 30 days, and the MIRC has an additional 30 days to make a final recommendation, after which the Laboratory Director will make a final judgment.
5. The IACUC will notify the PI of the decision to either accept or reject the proposal.

\* [Definition of USDA-regulated species](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2006/janqtr/pdf/9cfr1.1.pdf). (Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2131–2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.7)  
1.1 Animal means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus Rattus, and mice of the genus Mus, bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber.