

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
November 27, 2009**

**ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Targacept, Inc.**

**File No. 000-51173- CF#24291**

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Targacept, Inc. submitted an application under Rule 24b-2 requesting confidential treatment for information it excluded from the Exhibits to a Form 10-Q filed on November 6, 2009.

Based on representations by Targacept, Inc. that this information qualifies as confidential commercial or financial information under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), the Division of Corporation Finance has determined not to publicly disclose it. Accordingly, excluded information from the following exhibits will not be released to the public for the time period specified:

Exhibit 10.1 through November 5, 2014  
Exhibit 10.2 through November 5, 2014

For the Commission, by the Division of Corporation Finance, pursuant to delegated authority:

Pamela Howell  
Special Counsel