Supplementary Data

Fig. S1. Nickel inhibited the proliferation of HEK293 and A549 cells. 1×10^3 HEK293 (a&c) and A549 cells (b&d) were seeded into each well of 96-well plate separately, and cultured until the cell density reached 80-90%. The cells were then exposed to 0.5mM or 0.25mM $NiCl_2$ for various time periods. The cells were photographed under microscopy after 36 hours exposure. The cell proliferation was evaluated as described in *Materials and Methods.*

Fig. S2. Nickel-induced HIF-1α accumulation and subsequent VEGF expression. Eight$\times10^3$ Beas-2B HRE mass1 cells (a, b) and Beas-2B VEGF mass1 cells (d, e) were seeded into each well of 96-well plate separately, and cultured until the cell density reached 80-90%. The cells were treated with various concentrations of $NiCl_2$ for various time periods. The cells were extracted with lysis buffer and luciferase activity was measured. Beas-2B cells (2×10^5) were seeded into each well of 6-well plate (c), and cultured in 10% FBS DMEM until 80-90% confluence. The cells were exposed to $NiCl_2$ for doses as indicated for 24 or 48 hrs. Western blot was performed as described above. Beas-2B cells (f) were seeded into 100-mm dishes. After being cultured at 37°C overnight, they were treated with $NiCl_2$ for 24 hrs. RNA isolation and RT-PCR were carried out as described above.