

April 11, 2016

Thomas K. Spencer, Radiation Safety Officer
Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company
3500 Dekalb Street
St. Louis, MO 63118

Dear Mr. Spencer,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received the Groundwater Evaluation Plan for the Fort Mims Site (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16043A294) on February 5, 2016, and additional site information, including recent soil sampling results (ML16070A167) and clarifying information (ML16070A338) on March 8, 2016. The Groundwater Evaluation Plan appears reasonable towards addressing several NRC concerns, including insufficient characterization of the vertical extent of contamination (ML13280A564), which were discussed in the August 9, 2013, public meeting. The Groundwater Evaluation Plan, in combination with the Soil Sampling and Analysis Plan (ML15147A565) are intended to inform a site-specific approach to demonstrating compliance with dose criteria, which will be incorporated into a revised decommissioning plan to be submitted to the NRC. The NRC staff looks forward to reviewing the additional site characterization results as part of our review of the revised decommissioning plan. Together with the revision to the decommissioning plan, the licensee is required to provide a request for an alternate schedule for decommissioning following NRC Form 313, which is to be submitted through the NRC's Document Control Desk.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning the attached information, please contact George Alexander at (814) 297-8385 or at George.Alexander@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael A. Norato, Ph.D., Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-10716

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Materials Decommissioning Branch
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-10716

ADAMS Accession No.: ML16097A603

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