

October 8, 1998

Mr. Cort Horton
Radiation Safety Officer
Merrill Pharmaceutical, Inc.
2110 East Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45215-6300

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION OF MERRILL PHARMACEUTICAL, INC.
DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT

Dear Mr. Horton:

This refers to the inspection conducted on September 21-22, 1998, at the facilities of Merrill Pharmaceuticals, Inc., located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether decommissioning activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. The inspection was an examination of decommissioning activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. This also acknowledges assistance rendered this Agency by inspectors from the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Protection.

The areas examined during the inspection consisted of a selective examination of decommissioning procedures and representative records, observations, independent measurements, and interviews with personnel. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with Dr. Ekkehart Bohme, Manager, Technical and Facilities Services, and other members from his staff and decommissioning contractor staff.

Based on the results of the inspection, no violations of NRC requirements were identified, and the conduct of decommissioning activities by Merrill Pharmaceutical, Inc., and contract staff is generally characterized as being safety-conscious and using sound health physics practices.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. 1/0

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/s/ G. M. McCann for

9810150331 981008
PDR ADOCK 03005696
C PDR

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

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