

March 19, 2002

Douglas D. Mann, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Radiation Safety Officer and
Assistant Director
Terre Haute Laboratories
Pfizer Incorporated
P.O. Box 88
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Dear Dr. Mann:

We have reviewed your plan for the retrieval of two calf carcasses outlined in the enclosure of your letter to me dated February 11, 2002. Mr. William Snell of my staff also briefly discussed your plan with you in a followup telephone call. We have no concerns with your intended actions.

Due to the length of time the calves have been buried (since 1984), significant radiological decay of the tritium will have occurred. In addition, depending on the manner in which the calves were buried, it is likely that any remaining tritium will have already migrated away through the soil. Because of this, there appears to be little radiological health and safety concern. As such, we currently do not plan to be present when you retrieve the carcasses. However, we would like to be notified if any new information becomes available. We would also like a followup letter informing us of the outcome of the retrieval.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 630-829-9615 or Mr. William Snell of my staff at 630-829-9871.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

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