

JAN 9 1997

Ronald P. Durbin, Ph.D.
Hercules, Incorporated
Hercules Research Center
500 Hercules Road
Wilmington, DE 19808-1599

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-03851/96-001

Dear Dr. Durbin:

On October 18, 1996, Richard Gibson, Jr., of this office conducted a safety inspection at Hercules Research Center of activities authorized by the NRC license listed below. The inspection was limited to observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, selective examination of records and confirmatory surveys of the Hot Lab, Room #236 and the Sample Analysis Lab, Room #239. A copy of the NRC inspection report is enclosed. In addition, our inspection examined the activities covered in your correspondence dated October 17, 1996. The findings of the inspection were discussed with members of your staff, at the conclusion of the inspection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.

The enclosed inspection report does not constitute approval by the NRC for release of your laboratories for unrestricted use. The results of this inspection report, and all other applicable information available to the NRC, will be examined to determine if your laboratories may be released for unrestricted use by the reviewer who is responsible for amending your license.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed report will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Material Safety Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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R. P. Durbin, Ph.D.
Hercules, Incorporated

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Docket No.: 030-03851
License No.: 07-00222-02

Enclosure:
Inspection Report No. 030-03851/96-001

cc w/enclosure:
Dr. Ashaiata S. Hirwe, Radiation Safety Officer
State of Delaware

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Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
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R. Gibson, RI

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