

April 2, 1997

Raymond Shepherd, Site Director
Du Pont Merck Pharmaceutical Company
331 Treble Cove Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-32013/97-001

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

On March 12-13, 1997, Penny Lanzisera of this office, accompanied by Mike Whalen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conducted a safety inspection at the above address of activities authorized by the NRC license listed below. The inspection was limited to a review of a skin contamination event that occurred on February 6, 1997. A copy of the NRC inspection report is enclosed. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you and other members of your staff, at the conclusion of the inspection.

Maintenance activities involving the new molybdenum-99/technetium-99m production line, contamination control measures and potential engineering design changes were also discussed during the inspection. We understand that you have implemented special contamination control measures as an interim solution to the release of contamination from the production cell during routine and maintenance entries. We also understand that engineering design changes are currently under review to reduce the level of maintenance required on the molybdenum-99/technetium-99m production line. As discussed during the exit conference conducted on March 13, 1997, and in response to this letter, please provide a description of both contamination control activities and engineering upgrades planned or in process.

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

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 your response will be placed in the Public Document Room.

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R. Shepherd, Site Director
Du Pont Merck

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Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
JOHN D. KINNEMAN

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

Docket No.: 030-32013
License No.: 20-28598-01

Enclosure:
Inspection Report No. 030-32013/97-001

cc w/enclosure:
Dennis Dumas, Radiation Safety Officer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

R. Shepherd, Site Director
Du Pont Merck

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