it can approve the application or abbreviated application if specific additional information or material is submitted or specific conditions (for example, certain changes in labeling) are agreed to by the applicant. The approvable letter will describe the information or material FDA requires or the conditions the applicant is asked to meet. As a practical matter, the approvable letter will serve in most instances as a mechanism for resolving outstanding issues on drugs that are about to be approved and marketed. For an application, the applicant shall, within 10 days after the date of the approvable letter:

(1) Amend the application or notify FDA of an intent to file an amendment. The filing of an amendment or notice of intent to file an amendment constitutes an agreement by the applicant to extend the review period for 45 days after the date FDA receives the amendment. The extension is to permit the agency to review the amendment;

(2) Withdraw the application. FDA will consider the applicant's failure to respond within 10 days to an approvable letter to be a request by the applicant to withdraw the application under § 314.65. A decision to withdraw an application is without prejudice to a refiling;

(3) For a new drug application, ask the agency to provide the applicant an opportunity for a hearing on the question of whether there are grounds for denying approval of the application under section 505(d) of the act. The applicant shall submit the request to the Associate Director for Policy (HFD–5), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Within 60 days of the date of the approvable letter, or within a different time period to which FDA and the applicant agree, the agency will either approve the application under § 314.105 or refuse to approve the application under § 314.125 and give the applicant written notice of an opportunity for a hearing under § 314.200 and section 505(c)(2) of the act on the question of whether there are grounds for denying approval of the application under section 505(d) of the act;

(4) [Reserved]

(5) Notify FDA that the applicant agrees to an extension of the review period under section 505(c) of the act, so that the applicant can determine whether to respond further under paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of this section. The applicant's notice is required to state the length of the extension. FDA will honor any reasonable request for such an extension. FDA will consider the applicant's failure to respond further within the extended review period to be a request to withdraw the application under § 314.65. A decision to withdraw an application is without prejudice to a refiling.

(b) FDA will send the applicant of an abbreviated new drug application an approvable letter only if the application substantially meets the requirements of this part and the agency believes that it can approve the abbreviated application if minor deficiencies (e.g., labeling deficiencies) are corrected. The approvable letter will describe the deficiencies and state a time period within which the applicant must respond. Unless the applicant corrects the deficiencies by amendment within the specified time period, FDA will refuse to approve the abbreviated application under § 314.127. Within 10 days after the date of the approvable letter, the applicant may also ask the agency to provide the applicant an opportunity for a hearing on the question of whether there are grounds for denying approval of the abbreviated new drug application. Applicants who request a hearing shall submit the request to the Associate Director for Policy (HFD–5), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

[57 FR 17989, Apr. 28, 1992, as amended at 62 FR 43639, Aug. 15, 1997; 64 FR 402, Jan. 5, 1999]

§ 314.120 Not approvable letter to the applicant.

(a) The Food and Drug Administration will send the applicant a not approvable letter if the agency believes that the application may not be approved for one of the reasons given in § 314.125 or the abbreviated new drug application may not be approved for one of the reasons given in § 314.127. The not approvable letter will describe the deficiencies in the application or

abbreviated application. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, within 10 days after the date of the not approvable letter, the applicant shall:

(1) Amend the application or abbreviated application or notify FDA of an intent to file an amendment. The filing of an amendment or a notice of intent to file an amendment constitutes an agreement by the applicant to extend the review period under § 314.60 or § 314.96;

(2) Withdraw the application or abbreviated application. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, FDA will consider the applicant's failure to respond within 10 days to a not approvable letter to be a request by the applicant to withdraw the application under § 314.65 or abbreviated application under § 314.99. A decision to withdraw the application or abbreviated application is without prejudice to refiling;

(3) For a new drug application or an abbreviated application, ask the agency to provide the applicant an opportunity for a hearing on the question of whether there are grounds for denying approval of the application under section 505(d) or (j)(3) of the act. The applicant shall submit the request to the Associate Director for Policy (HFD–5), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Within 60 days of the date of the not approvable letter, or within a different time period to which FDA and the applicant agree, the agency will either approve the application or abbreviated application under § 314.105 or refuse to approve the application under § 314.125 or abbreviated new drug application under § 314.127 and give the applicant written notice of an opportunity for a hearing under § 314.200 and section 505(c)(1)(B) or (j)(4)(C) of the act on the question of whether there are grounds for denying approval of the application under section 505(d) or (j)(3) of the act; or

(4) [Reserved]

(5) Notify FDA that the applicant agrees to an extension of the review period under section 505(c)(1) or (j)(4)(A) of the act, so that the applicant can determine whether to respond further under paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of this section. The applicant's notice is required to state the length of the extension. FDA will honor any reasonable request for such an extension. FDA will consider the applicant's failure to respond further within the extended review period to be a request to withdraw the application under § 314.65 or abbreviated application under § 314.99. A decision to withdraw an application or abbreviated application is without prejudice to a refiling.

(b) With the exception of a request for an opportunity for a hearing under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the 10-day time period in this section for responding to a not approvable letter does not apply to abbreviated new drug applications. FDA may consider the applicant's failure to respond within 180 days to a not approvable letter to be a request by the applicant to withdraw the abbreviated new drug application under § 314.99.

[57 FR 17990, Apr. 28, 1992, as amended at 62 FR 43639, Aug. 15, 1997; 64 FR 402, Jan. 5, 1999]

§ 314.122 Submitting an abbreviated application for, or a 505(j)(2)(C) petition that relies on, a listed drug that is no longer marketed.

(a) An abbreviated new drug application that refers to, or a petition under section 505(j)(2)(C) of the act and § 314.93 that relies on, a listed drug that has been voluntarily withdrawn from sale in the United States must be accompanied by a petition seeking a determination whether the listed drug was withdrawn for safety or effectiveness reasons. The petition must be submitted under §§ 10.25(a) and 10.30 of this chapter and must contain all evidence available to the petitioner concerning the reasons for the withdrawal from sale.

(b) When a petition described in paragraph (a) of this section is submitted, the agency will consider the evidence in the petition and any other evidence before the agency, and determine whether the listed drug is withdrawn from sale for safety or effectiveness reasons, in accordance with the procedures in § 314.161.

(c) An abbreviated new drug application described in paragraph (a) of this section will be disapproved, under