



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HFA-305
Docket OIF-004
Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

March 17, 2001 101 MAR 16 10:00

Mr. Ken B. Moore
Executive Director
Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference
209-2 Dawson Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of February 7, 2001, addressed to Dr. Henney, former Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), asking FDA to expedite the review of the National Fisheries Institute's (NFI) petition Docket #01F-0047 on approving irradiation of shellfish.

For your information, Dr. Henney resigned as Commissioner on January 20. Bernard A. Schwetz, D.V.M., Ph.D., is currently leading the Agency as the Acting Principal Deputy Commissioner.

Please be assured that we are giving high priority to the review of the petition submitted by the NFI for irradiation of molluscan shellfish. As you may be aware, in January 1999, the Agency announced that it would expedite the review of petitions for approval of food additives intended to significantly decrease the levels of pathogens in food. The NFI petition you refer to has been designated for expedited review. While we cannot discuss the details of the review of the petition with anyone other than the petitioner, FDA staff in our Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition recently met with representatives of the petitioner to discuss the status of the review. We will continue to communicate regularly with the petitioner to ensure the review of the petition is completed as efficiently and quickly as possible.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

Wanda Russ
Policy Analyst
Executive Secretariat

OIF-0047

LET,

Bcc: HFS-1(Wheeler)
HF-40(Russ)
HFA-224
HFA-305(Dockets #01F-0047))

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