



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

September 29, 2004

Charles L. Hofacre  
Secretary-Treasurer  
American Association of Avian Pathologists  
953 College Station Road  
Athens, Georgia 30602-5875

Dear Mr. Hofacre:

Thank you for your letter of September 2 addressed to Dr. Crawford regarding the proposed withdrawal of the approval of enrofloxacin use in poultry. As described below, this matter is now pending before Dr. Crawford.

Under longstanding federal regulations governing the withdrawal of approval of a new animal drug, communications about this proposed withdrawal are not allowed between the Commissioner, officials advising the Office of the Commissioner, and persons outside the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). See Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.55(d)(1) (21 CFR 10.55 (d)(1)). Therefore, Dr. Crawford is unable to respond to the specific issues regarding enrofloxacin that you raise in your letter. For your information, under these regulations, a copy of your correspondence and this response must be placed in the FDA docket and served on the participants. See 21 CFR 10.55(d)(3).

However, I am able to provide the following information on the regulatory process for FDA's formal evidentiary hearings and a brief outline of selected milestones in the case of enrofloxacin. The FDA's formal hearings are conducted by an administrative law judge under regulations found at 21 CFR part 12. These regulations set out the procedures that FDA must follow when conducting formal hearings.

The Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) proposed to withdraw approval of the New Animal Drug Application (NADA) 140-828, pursuant to Section 512(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. That section requires that a new animal drug must be shown to be safe and effective for its intended uses. On October 31, 2000, CVM published a notice of opportunity for hearing (NOOH) in the *Federal Register*. On November 29, 2000, Bayer filed a request for a hearing. The FDA Commissioner agreed and published a Notice of Hearing on February 20, 2002, in the *Federal Register*.

After submission of documentary evidence, written direct testimony, and joint stipulations by CVM, Bayer Corporation, the sponsor of the animal drug, and non-party participant Animal Health Institute (AHI), an oral hearing for cross-examination of witnesses was held between April 28 and May 7, 2003, with Administrative Law Judge Daniel J. Davidson presiding. The parties and AHI filed post-hearing briefs and replies in the summer of 2003 and the

2000N-1571

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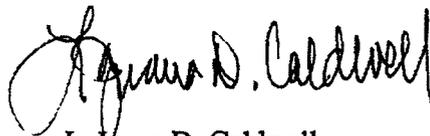
Page 2 – Mr. Charles L. Hofacre

administrative law judge issued an initial decision on March 16, 2004. The parties have filed exceptions to the initial decision.

A public docket was established at the time the NOOH was published in October 2000. The record of the hearing, which includes the NOOH, referenced scientific studies, briefs, hearing transcripts, the initial decision of the administrative law judge, and subsequent filings by CVM, Bayer, and AHI, can be found in this public docket (Docket No. 2000N-1571).

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lajuana D. Caldwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Lajuana D. Caldwell  
Director  
Office of Executive Secretariat

cc: Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)