

March 11, 2008

Dear Mayor Dunn,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. In July 2006, I sent you a [PETA report entitled "Pharmaceuticals in the Water Supply"](#) on the pharmaceutical contamination of our waterways, groundwater, and drinking water. In light of the alarming findings of the [five-month Associated Press investigation](#)—which was made public yesterday and reported extensively by hundreds of media outlets including [USA Today](#), [the Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), and [The New York Times](#)—I ask you to give fresh consideration to the impact that a Covance testing facility is likely to have on water safety in Chandler and to reconsider your decision to allow Covance into your city. While PETA's primary objection to Covance is the abusive, illegal treatment of animals that we documented in the company's laboratories, it is now clear that there are also serious health and economic issues at stake for Chandler's residents.

At a June 27, 2006, meeting between Covance official Wendel Barr and the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Barr admitted that Covance hoses urine and feces from animals' cages directly into the public sewage system. The proposed Covance facility would introduce a population of animals greater than Chandler's current human population. However, unlike the city's human residents, *all* the new animal residents of Chandler—dogs, primates, rabbits, cats, guinea pigs, pigs, ferrets, mice, and rats—would consume and excrete enormous amounts of test drugs and other chemicals.

Few sewage-treatment plants in the U.S. are designed to remove drugs from wastewater. Lakes, streams, groundwater, and even drinking water now contain active pharmaceuticals—chemotherapy medicines, antibiotics, antidepressants, and endocrine disruptors—that pose considerable threats to human health and the environment. Within the next five to 10 years, as government policies fall in line with the science on this issue, municipalities will be forced to ensure that pharmaceutical contamination of treated sewage falls within legally mandated levels. The clean-up of different classes of drugs requires separate and distinct technologies, so the cost of such water treatment will be enormous.

Moreover, the proposed Covance facility in Chandler would test *new* pharmaceuticals that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and for which water-treatment technologies may or may not exist. Some of these drugs will likely be rejected as dangerous for humans. The amount of pharmaceuticals dumped by Covance into the sewage system would dwarf the amount coming from Chandler's human population. Residents would soon face an enormous fiscal burden of



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.
NORFOLK, VA 23510
757-622-PETA
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org
Info@peta.org

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

investing in sewage-treatment technologies to remove pharmaceutical contamination, and these technologies would need to be continually updated to handle new classes of drugs that would be tested on animals at Covance.

And what about the health consequences associated with long-term ingestion of subtherapeutic doses of a cocktail of drugs? We think that you would agree with us that we cannot put a price tag on health and that clean drinking water—what many call "blue gold"—is of incalculable value. We urge you to reconsider your decision to permit Covance to operate in Chandler.

We understand that from your vantage point, it might seem that your decision to allow Covance to build an animal-testing facility in your city is irreversible. However, we urge you to reconsider, as the damage unleashed by a Covance facility pumping massive quantities of experimental drugs every single day into Chandler's wastewater system will have a far more profound and lasting effect on your city than reversing your earlier decision.

Communities have a right to demand clean air and water. In the case of an emerging threat—such as the danger posed by drugs in drinking water, where laws regarding responsibility and liability have yet to be enacted—there exists a great potential for communities to be left entirely vulnerable to the power of corporations. The city of Chandler can protect its residents and set an example for other communities by saying "no" to Covance and "yes" to clean water, a healthier community, and greater long-term prosperity.

Can we speak with you, after you have reviewed our report, to discuss these issues? You can contact me at 757-962-8210 or at AlkaC@peta.org.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, which, of course, are tightly interwoven with those of many Chandler residents.

Sincerely,



Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals