


**To:** Varian Mercury-200 Users  
**From:** John Harwood (jharwood@purdue.edu)   
**Date:** May 25, 2007  
**Subject:** Varian Mercury-200 Spectrometer Decommissioned

Some of you may already be aware that our Varian Mercury-200 NMR spectrometer, located in 2185 BRWN, recently was taken out of service due to a magnet quench. This has prompted us to investigate the costs of recommissioning and maintaining this spectrometer in relation to its usage and the time available on our other low-field spectrometers. After looking into this issue we have concluded that it is not worth it to bring this spectrometer back to operating condition.

Several factors influenced this decision, including the following:

- 1) last year, hourly usage on the Mercury-200 averaged only 9% (ca. 65 hours per month);
- 2) the Mercury-200 accounts for roughly 8% of our annual liquid helium costs;
- 3) usage rates for our 300 and 400 MHz spectrometers in BRWN/WTHR are 16 - 31%, so they can easily accommodate the displaced Mercury-200 use.

Users who had accounts on the Mercury-200, but no other spectrometers, will be given access to our two Varian Inova-300 spectrometers upon request. It is expected that the Mercury-200 usage in support of our teaching laboratories will be shifted to the Inova-300-2 located in 4100 BRWN.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

cc: Department Heads  
D. McMillin  
NMR Advisory Committee  
Kurt Keyes  
NMR Support Staff