



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

December 16, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of )  
Tennessee Valley Authority ) 10 CFR 26, Appendix A

UNSATISFACTORY LABORATORY RESULT ON A BLIND PERFORMANCE TEST SPECIMEN

In accordance with 10 CFR 26, Appendix A, 2.8 (e) 4, enclosed are the investigative findings of Clinical Reference Laboratory (CRL) which serves as TVA's contract laboratory. CRL's investigation was initiated due to a false negative result on a blind performance test sample. This blind performance sample contained methaqualone and should have tested positive for methaqualone. Although not required by 10 CFR 26, TVA chooses to test for methaqualone, in some cases.

TVA's Fitness for Duty (FFD) Program management consulted CRL's management and determined that this incident occurred due a failure of the screening assay to detect methaqualone above the cutoff level. An interim measure has been implemented in which all specimens reading above 25 ng/ml on the methaqualone screening assay are automatically sent to gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) for confirmation.

As part of TVA's FFD Program, TVA plans to continue monitoring CRL's performance through blind performance testing to prevent reoccurrence of this type error.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please telephone Terry Knuettel at (423) 751-6673.

Sincerely,

*Mark J. Burzynski*  
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