



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

FEB 07 1992

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of	)	Docket Nos.	50-259	50-390
Tennessee Valley Authority	)		50-260	50-391
	)		50-296	50-438
	)		50-327	50-439
	)		50-328	

FITNESS FOR DUTY PROGRAM (FFD) - UNSATISFACTORY LABORATORY PERFORMANCE

The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC of an unsatisfactory performance testing result by National Psychopharmacology Laboratory, Inc. (NPL). NPL is the laboratory, certified by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), with which TVA has contracted for drug testing purposes. This report is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR Part 26, Appendix A, Section 2.8(e)(4).

TVA submits two sets of quality control (QC) specimens to NPL. One set of specimens is for the "NIDA 5" panel of drugs; the second set of QC specimens is for an 11 drug panel for which testing is performed in "for cause" situations, as permitted by Section 2.1(b) of Appendix A. The 11 drug panel consists of the "NIDA 5" plus 6 additional drugs including methaqualone and propoxyphene. On December 30, 1991, TVA submitted QC specimens for the 5 drug panel and the 11 drug panel. Included in the specimens to be tested for the 11 drug panel were two QC specimens which had each been "spiked" to produce a positive result for one of the 6 additional drugs (methaqualone and propoxyphene). TVA assumed that a testing error must have occurred when the results for these two QC specimens were reported to TVA on December 31 as "negative." NPL was notified and asked to investigate the incident.

The results of NPL's investigation were provided to TVA on January 20. NPL determined that due to a clerical error at its facility, the QC specimens submitted for testing in accordance with the 11 drug panel were tested only for the "NIDA 5" drug panel. The specimens were subsequently

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resubmitted by NPL's scientific director and screened positive for the correct drug groups. NPL's report regarding the incident is enclosed.

Questions concerning this incident may be directed to Steve Gilley at (615) 751-7667.

Sincerely,



M. J. Burzynski
Acting Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc(Enclosure):

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ENCLOSURE



NATIONAL
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
LABORATORY, INC.

January 20, 1992

Dr. Estes A. Felker, M.R.O.
Tennessee Valley Authority
Central Medical Laboratories

Dear Dr. Felker:

On the night of December 30, 1991 our forensic accessioners received a batch of urine specimens for drug testing from your laboratory. As usual both "fitness for duty", profile #946 and "NIDA" profile #925 type specimens were received. Two specimens that were designated for the #946 profile were erroneously processed and tested along with the #925 profile specimens. Thus samples No. E34403 and E34408 were tested for only five drug groups, but reported as negative for all eleven. Upon receiving a request to investigate these two results on December 31, 1991, I immediately discovered that the wrong test was run on these two samples. The correct screening profile (#946) was performed on December 31, 1991 and presumptive positive findings were observed for two drug groups not tested in the #925 profile previously used on these samples in error.

We apologize for this error and the inconvenience associated with it. I have reviewed this problem with my personnel to minimize the potential for repeating this type of error.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Timothy A. Robert', is written over a horizontal line.

Timothy A. Robert, Ph. D.
Scientific Director

TAR/psk