

Indian Point 3  
Nuclear Power Plant  
P.O. Box 215  
Buchanan, New York 10511  
914 736.8001



**New York Power  
Authority**

**Robert J. Barrett**  
Site Executive Officer

January 22, 1998  
IPN-98-007

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

SUBJECT: Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant  
Docket No. 50-286  
License No. DPR-64  
**Unsatisfactory Laboratory Results of a Blind Performance Test**


Dear Sir:

This letter provides a report as required by 10 CFR 26, Appendix A, Section 2.8(e)(4). A positive blind performance test was reported as a negative specimen by the testing lab on December 23, 1997. Attached to this letter are the following documents that concern the report for this incident:

1. A letter by LabCorp dated December 23, 1997, which amends the report on the test,
2. A letter by LabCorp dated December 24, 1997, that documents the results of an investigation by the testing laboratory, Laboratory Corporation of America, and provides the corrective action to address the cause of the event,
3. A letter from the Authority's Medical Review Officer dated January 6, 1998, reporting the results of his review of the lab report.

The Authority is making no new commitments with this submittal. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dale Plumer at (914) 788-2195.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert J. Barrett  
Site Executive Officer  
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant

cc: See next page



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PDR

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Attachments: Letter from LabCorp dated December 23, 1997.

Letter by from LabCorp dated December 24, 1997.

Letter from MEDICUS, P.C. dated January 6, 1998.

cc: Regional Administrator  
Region I  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspectors' Office  
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant



Laboratory Corporation of America™ Holdings  
69 First Avenue  
Raritan, NJ 08869-2240

December 23, 1997

Telephone: 800-631-5250

Dr. Peter Gay  
1245 Route 9  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Dear Dr. Gay:

Enclosed is a copy of the amended report on specimen number 353-718-5512-0. Due to a clerical oversight, the specimen initially was reported as negative. Review of the data clearly shows that the specimen was positive for Amphetamine by GC/MS.

If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 437-4986.

Sincerely,

William E. Wingert, PhD  
Laboratory Director,  
Forensic Toxicology



December 24, 1997

Laboratory Corporation of America® Holdings  
89 First Avenue  
Raritan, NJ 08859-2240

Telephone: 800-831-5250

Dr. Peter Gay  
1245 Route 9  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Dear Dr. Gay:

This is a supplement to the information previously provided concerning specimen number 353 718-5512-0. As stated in the previous letter, review of the data from confirmation testing indicates that the specimen was positive for Amphetamine and negative for Methamphetamine. However, the Certifying Scientist entered the results into the computer as negative for Amphetamine and did not catch the error at that time.

To prevent this oversight from occurring in the future, the following corrective actions will be taken for NRC specimens which require confirmation testing. The Certifying Scientist will reprint a copy of the report and date and initial it. A second individual will then also review the data and date and initial the reprinted report. This reprinted report will be kept attached to the laboratory's copy of the Custody and Control form.

If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 437-4986.

Sincerely,

*William E. Wingert*

William E. Wingert, PhD  
Laboratory Director,  
Forensic Toxicology

**MEDICUS, P.C.**

MID-HUDSON IMMEDIATE MEDICAL SERVICES

**January 6, 1998**

**Dale Plumer, R.N.  
New York Power Authority  
P.O. Box 215  
Buchanan NY 10511**

**Re: Positive Control Specimen Reported As A Negative****Dear Dale,**

A positive control urine was reported to the Medical Review Officer (MRO) as a negative specimen. The error was corrected after the lab director was informed that it was a spiked specimen. The error occurred, not in the performance of the test (it was positive for amphetamines), but in filling out the forms.

Dr. Wingert, the lab director, explained that the technician fills out two (2) forms indicating the test results, after performing the test. In this case one of these forms was erroneously marked negative. The Certifying Scientist who checks the reports and reviews the test results failed to detect the error. He issued the final MRO report indicating the sample was negative.

It appears that the potential for human error is inherent in the requirement to manually complete forms and can be avoided only by diligence. This situation (the requirement to manually complete forms) is not unique to LabCorp. According to Dr. Wingert this specific error has not been made at LabCorp before.

Corrective action to help reduce the chances of reoccurrence of this error is described by Dr. Wingerts letter dated 12/24/97 to Dr. Gay. This calls for a review of the test procedures and review of the final report by a second person that will then sign the report.

**Recommendations:**

I believe the incident has been properly addressed and those steps taken to reduce the chance of further errors of this nature are appropriate. I do not believe that there is sufficient reason at this time to switch to another lab.

I discussed this incident with Dr. Wolf, my counterpart at JAF, on 1/6/98. Our assessment was that this is an isolated incident of human error. He concurs with the recommendation to continue to use LabCorp.

**Sincerely,****Peter C. Gay, M.D., M.R.O.**

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