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



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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 <u>Unsatisfactory Laboratory Results of a Blind Performance Test</u>

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 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



Robert J. Barrett Site Executive Officer

Docket No. 50-286 IPN-98-007 Page 2 of 2

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

F. TOX LABCORP-ROCHE





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December 23, 1997

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12/23/1997

Laboratory Corporation of America® Holdings 66 First Avenue Raritan, NJ 08869-2240

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. Hungert

William E. Wingert, PhD Laboratory Director, Forensic Toxicology

PAGE 02



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December 24, 1997

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Laboratory Corporation of America's Holdings 89 First Avenue Pariteh, Nu. 08883-2240

Telephone: Rud-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 humber 353 718-5512-0. As stated in the previous letter, review of the data from confirmation tosting 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.

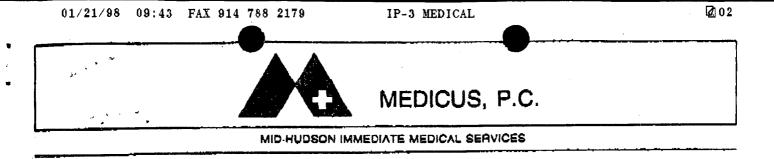
To prevent this oversight from occurring in the future, the following corrective actions will be taken for NRC specimens which require confirmation testing. The Certifying Scientist will reprint a copy of the report and date and initial it. A second individual will then also review the data and date 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) 437-4985.

Sincerely,

Helesin E. Hugert

William E. Wingert, PhD Laboratory Director, Forensic Toxicology



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.

1120 UNION AVENUE NEWBURGH, NY 12550 914-566-1120 • FAX 914-566-1148 1245 ROUTE 9 WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590 914-297-2511 • FAX 914-297-4993 244 ROUTE 55 LAGRANGEVILLE, NY 12540 914-485-4455