

Ralph, Melissa

From: Ralph, Melissa

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 4:39 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Biddison, John; Resner, Mark; Smith, Will; Harris, Paul; Chalk, Wayne

Subject: RE: FFD Inquiry - Prescription Drug for Chronic Pain

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your inquiry. The use of a prescription medication does not automatically preclude an individual from working at a nuclear power plant; however, all persons who are granted unescorted access to nuclear power reactor protected areas and those who perform certain job functions are subject to a fitness for duty (FFD) program. One objective of the FFD program is to provide reasonable assurance that individuals are trustworthy and reliable, as demonstrated by the avoidance of substance abuse; and to provide reasonable assurance that individuals are not under the influence of any substance, legal or illegal, or mentally or physically impaired from any cause, which in any way adversely affects their ability to safely and competently perform their duties.

While legitimate use of a medication in the manner and at the dosage prescribed, does not reflect a lack of reliability and trustworthiness, it may impact an individual's ability to safely and competently perform their duties. NRC licensees are required to establish, implement, and maintain written policies and procedures relating to the licensee's FFD program. The licensee's FFD policy statement must, among other things, address factors that could affect FFD, such as mental stress, fatigue, or illness, and the use of prescription and over-the-counter medications that could cause impairment. A licensee's FFD policy provides affected individuals with information on what is expected of them and what consequences may result from a lack of adherence to the policy as an employee or contractor/vendor at that licensee's facilities.

Additional information on the NRC's requirements for FFD programs is available through the NRC's public Web site <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/fitness-for-duty.html>

The NRC hopes that the information above answers your question. Please feel free to contact the agency should you require any additional information.

Regards,

Melissa Ralph,

Security Specialist

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 8:10 AM
To: OPA Resource
Subject: FFD

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

[REDACTED] on Friday, April 27, 2012 at 08:09:44

comments: Can someone who is being treated by a MD for chronic pain with prescription drugs work at a nuclear plant?

organization:

address1 [REDACTED]

address2:

city: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip [REDACTED]

country [REDACTED]

phone: [REDACTED]
