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SUBJECT: Forwards fitness-for-duty program unsatisfactory performance test result, per 10CFR26, App A.

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DUKE POWER

September 24, 1996

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

Subject: Fitness-For-Duty Program
Unsatisfactory Performance Test Result

Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-269, -270 and -287
McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-369 and -370
Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-413 and -414

Attached is a report, as required by 10CFR 26, Appendix A, of unsatisfactory performance test results.

If there are any questions, please contact G. A. Copp at (704)382-5826.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Tuckman

M. S. Tuckman

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
September 24, 1996
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DUKE POWER

September 13, 1996

SUBJECT: False Negative Blind Urine Drug Screen

One spiked positive blind urine specimen for marijuana was incorrectly identified as negative by the SmithKline Beecham Laboratory in Atlanta. The specimen was submitted from Catawba Nuclear Station on June 14, 1996.

Dr. Jerry McHan of Quality Assurance Associates notified me of the results on August 26, 1996. Dr. McHan has investigated the test results with Dr. Barry Sample, the Laboratory Director of SmithKline Beecham. A report from Dr. Sample is attached.

This specimen should have been positive for THC at 50 ng, but negative at 100 ng. The error was made by a certifying scientist reviewing the data. Corrective action taken by the laboratory was to review the policy with the certifying scientist. Additional corrective action is that additional instrumentation will be put in place next week and that will eliminate the need for this particular manual review by the certifying scientist.

I met with Dr. Sample on September 12, 1996 in Atlanta and was assured of the corrective action.

W. E. Dukes, Jr., MD
Corporate Medical Director

WED/sap
Enclosure

SB
SmithKline Beecham
Clinical Laboratories

September 12, 1996

Gene Dukes, M.D.
Corporate Medical Director
Duke Power
422 S. Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28242

Dear Dr. Dukes,

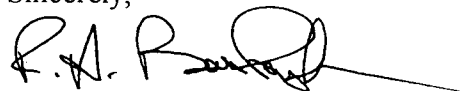
I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding the specimen identified by requisition number, **5319142**, and laboratory accession number, **402438J**. You indicated that this specimen was a blind specimen with an expected result of positive for THC. After further discussions with Dr. Jerry McHan, who prepares the blind specimens for Duke Power, it is my understanding that this specimen was expected to be negative at the NRC-mandated cut-off of 100 ng/mL and positive at the Duke Power company policy cut-off of 50 ng/mL. SBCL reported the specimen as negative.

A review of the immunoassay screening data showed that, relative to the 100 ng/mL calibrator, this specimen gave a response of 0.845 (i.e., a negative result). As we have discussed in the past, the determination of whether the specimen was negative or positive relative to the 50 ng/mL cut-off relied on a manual review of the data by the certifying scientist. In this case, the raw absorbance of the specimen was greater than the absorbance of the 50 ng/mL calibrator. In such a case, the certifying scientist, should initiate a reflex confirmation to be performed based on the 50 ng/mL cut-off result. The certifying scientist involved was aware of the policy to be followed and has been counseled.

Furthermore, approximately one week after this specimen was received, new screening instrumentation was placed into service which will permit the simultaneous determination of a 100 ng/mL and 50 ng/mL cut-off without the need for a manual review/calculation of the data. Consequently, the process has been changed such that this type of problem should not reoccur.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



R. H. Barry Sample, Ph.D.
Director of Forensic Toxicology
SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories - Southeast