



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive - MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
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February 7, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3152-01 (OLAW Case W)

Dr. John Mason
Associate Provost and Vice President
For Research
Auburn University
Office of Animal Resources
Samford Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849

Dear Dr. Mason,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 23, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Auburn University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on December 6, 2016 the IACUC was notified that approximately 16,000 fish had died due to chlorine toxicity. This occurred when a worker mistakenly refilled tanks with a higher volume of chlorinated municipal water vs. dechlorinated system water than is recommended. This activity was not PHS funded.

Corrective actions included the unit developing a checklist to assist workers with the proper procedure. In addition, the municipal water inlet is being altered to allow workers to both hear and see the water entering the system.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by Auburn University, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



Office of Research Compliance
IACUC Administration
115 Ramsay Hall Basement
Auburn University, AL 36849

Telephone: 334-844-5978
Fax: 334-844-4391
IACUCadmin@auburn.edu

January 23, 2017

Dr. Axel Wolff
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Assurance Number: A3152-01

Dear Dr. Wolff:

On December 6, 2016, the IACUC chair was notified by a Research Associate, verbally and by email, of the death of approximately 16 thousand fish at the E.W. Shell Fisheries Center in a single incident. The animals were not on a PHS-supported project.

Review of the incident (primarily per email from the Research Associate):

The aquatic system involved is a recirculating system of several tanks. The fish were being produced on a Standard Operating Procedures protocol (SOP) approved by the Auburn University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (AU IACUC).

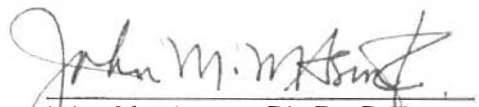
On December 2, 2016, fish in 5 of the tanks began to exhibit signs of Columnaris disease and treatments were initiated. On December 5, fish in 3 more tanks were showing signs of the disease. Fish in 6 of the tanks were treated on December 5, 2016. Treatment involves turning off the water flow to the tanks, treating the tanks with Diquat for 1 hour while monitoring the fish for stress. The water is then drained from the tanks and they are refilled with water. The problem arose when the tanks were refilled with water. The tanks were to be refilled with water from the system (dechlorinated), followed by slowly "topping off" the system with municipal water. As designed, with slow entry of municipal (chlorinated) water, the water is dechlorinated by aeration in the system as well as dilution with dechlorinated system water. In error, a worker turned the municipal water on high, and neglected to turn the municipal water off overnight. This caused the municipal water to flush through the system all night, beyond the ability of the system to dechlorinate. The fish died from chlorine exposure.

Corrective Actions Taken:

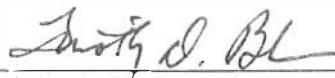
The affected unit has now developed a written/printed checklist to assist workers with the proper procedure. All workers will have access to the written checklist. Additionally, the facility is altering the way in which municipal water enters any recirculating

system. The inflow pipes will be shortened so that water will fall into the reservoir and workers will have both audible and visual cues on how quickly municipal water is flowing into the system.

This unit produces and maintains a large number of fish, and maintains many indoor and outdoor (dozens of ponds) water systems. While this loss is substantial, errors of this nature are uncommon for this unit.



John M. Mason, Ph.D., P.E.
Auburn University Institutional Official
Vice President for Research and
Economic Development



Timothy D. Braden, Ph.D.
Auburn University IACUC Chair
Associate Professor
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 7:52 AM
To: IACUC Admin; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Timothy Braden; John Mason; Secondary Individual; Secondary Individual; Secondary Individual; Secondary Individual; Pat Rynders
Subject: RE: Report of Noncompliance - Auburn University A3152-01

Thank you for this report. Secondary Individual We will send an official response soon.

Sincerely, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
 Animal Welfare Program Specialist
 Division of Compliance Oversight
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
 National Institutes of Health

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From: IACUC Admin [mailto:OARPROG@auburn.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:46 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Timothy Braden <bradetd@auburn.edu>; John Mason <jmm0027@auburn.edu>; Secondary Individual <Secondary Individual@auburn.edu>; Secondary Individual <Secondary Individual@auburn.edu>; Secondary Individual <Secondary Individual@auburn.edu>; Pat Rynders <ryndepe@auburn.edu>
Subject: Report of Noncompliance - Auburn University A3152-01

Good Afternoon, Dr. Wolff.

Please find attached to this email a report of noncompliance from Auburn University, Assurance Number A3152-01. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Thanks,

Secondary Individual

IACUC Administrator

Office of Research Compliance
 115 Ramsay Hall Basement
 Auburn University, AL 36849

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