



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  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

April 20, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3027-01 [OLAW Case D]

Dr. Glen A. Laine  
Vice President for Research  
Baylor College of Dentistry  
1112 TAMU  
College State, TX 77843-1112

Dear Dr. Laine,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 17, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Texas A&M University Health Science Center, following up on an initial telephone report on February 22, 2017. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that thirteen mice and one litter died after the animal room temperature rose to 95 degrees Fahrenheit due to a power fluctuation which caused an air handler control board to go offline. The animal room in question was not on emergency backup power. An alarm was sent to the security office but it was not staffed overnight and on weekends and security staff did not notice the problem during the night rounds

The corrective actions consisted of installing dedicated circuits with emergency backup power for the affected room. The security department was issued mobile temperature monitors for use during night rounds and temperature logs will be kept. Additional temperature and humidity sensors will be added to the rooms which will send reports and alerts to key animal program facility staff when readings exceed the set parameters. More Wi-Fi drops are being installed in the vivarium to ensure a strong signal.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair

DIVISION OF RESEARCH

Office of the Vice President for Research



April 17, 2017

A3027

Dr. Axel Wolff, Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: Texas A&M University Health Science Center Assurance D16-00014

Dear Dr. Wolff:

On February 22, 2016, Dr. Tennille Lamon called you to provide an initial report of an incident which occurred in animal activities supported by NIH Grant number R01DE022804. I was informed that the phone call qualified for a timely response for reporting the incident. Texas A&M University Health Science Center has an approved Animal Welfare Assurance document number D16-00014. As the Institutional Official for the Texas A&M University Health Science Center Animal Care and Use Program, I am submitting a formal report of the incident and the actions taken to address the situation.

On February 21, a power fluctuation caused a control board for the air handler in one room in the vivarium to go offline around 6:30 P.M. Building security did rounds in the vivarium throughout the night but did not enter the animal rooms and did not detect a temperature issue in the hallway where they had been doing their rounds. On February 22 at around 8:00 A.M., the animal caretaker entered the room and found the temperature to be 95°F. She discovered that thirteen adult mice and one newborn litter died as a result of the incident.

During the investigation of the incident, it was discovered that all of the control boards in the vivarium are on dedicated/isolated circuits, to include emergency backup power, except for the two boards that serve this specific room. The installation of these boards was over 20 years ago and there is no information available to indicate why they were not included to have emergency backup power. New dedicated/isolated circuits with emergency backup power for the two boards serving the affected room were installed on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

At the time of the incident, there were temperature sensors in each room. The temperature sensors sent an alarm to the security office which was not staffed overnight or on weekends. To prevent a future occurrence of an unknown temperature issue, two additional measures have been added to the monitoring of animals in the vivarium. The security department will be issued handheld temperature reading devices to use on their overnight rounds of the facilities and logs will be maintained to ensure the temperatures remain in an appropriate range throughout the facility. Additional temperature and

Dr. Alex Wolff, Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
April 17, 2017  
Page 2 of 2

humidity sensors will be added to the room. These new sensors will report the temperature and humidity via Wi-Fi to an app that can be checked anytime and will send an alert to the vivarium manager, IACUC Chair, and Attending Veterinarian if the temperature or humidity falls outside of the pre-set range. Additional Wi-Fi drops are being added throughout the vivarium to ensure the signal is strong enough for this system.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

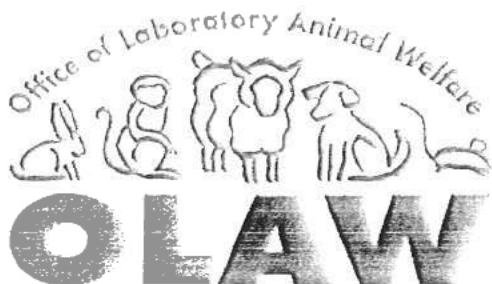
Regards,

(b) (6)

Dr. Glen A. Laine  
Vice President for Research  
Institutional Official

cc:

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 2/22/17

Time: PM

Name of Person reporting: Tenille Leeman

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Texas A&M UNIVERSITY - Dental School

Assurance number: A3027

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

Room overheated, engineers not there + didn't get alarm  
13 mice died

Species involved: mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 13

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_