



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

August 8, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3551-01 [OLAW Case 1C]

Mr. Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Whitmore Administration Building
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

Dear Dr. Malone,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 31, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 20, 2019 a coil in the HVAC system of an experimental room failed and a bad sensor complicated prompt detection. Ambient temperatures exceeded 90 degrees. As a result 25 Zebrafish died. It is understood that the activity was funded by the PHS.

The corrective and preventive actions consisted of repairing the HVAC system and activating the temperature monitoring alarm. Animal Care Staff will perform a secondary check off. Animal Care has portable air conditioning units available.

OLAW believes that the corrective and preventive measures put in place by the University of Massachusetts – Amherst are appropriate for this incident. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Research & Engagement
IACUC Office

A3551-1C

July 31, 2019

Dr. Brent Morse, D.V.M.
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Dear Dr. Morse,

In compliance with PHS policy, I am writing to provide a report on an adverse event that occurred on Saturday, July 20, 2019. The event pertained to research funded by NIH award # 5 R01 ES025748-04 and covered by IACUC approved protocol # 2016-0055.

An animal room overheated due to a mechanical failure. A coil in the HVAC system developed a leak at a time when ambient temperatures exceeded 90 degrees; in combination with that failure, a bad sensor complicated prompt detection. As a result, 25 Zebrafish, age 10 days, died. There were a total of 99 fish in the room. This is an experimental room for toxin exposure studies; it is under the care of the laboratory personnel with limited access by other staff. While the investigator has not determined conclusively that environmental conditions were the cause of these deaths, we have taken steps nonetheless to address the situation and are reporting out of an abundance of caution.

Corrective actions:

- UMass Physical Plant was contacted and the HVAC system has been repaired.
- Temperatures will be tracked and logged in this room daily regardless of whether or not it is occupied by animals.
- Physical Plant has activated a temperature monitoring alarm that will alert if the temperature in that room goes outside of set parameters.
- Animal Care Staff will perform a secondary check off. If a problem is detected a call to Physical Plant will be made immediately. Animal Care has multiple portable air conditioning units available that could be set up.

We look forward to your acknowledgment, answering any questions you may have or implementing any suggestions you may provide.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael F. Malone, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement
Institutional Official

Cc: Jesse Mager, IACUC Chair; (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019 9:23 AM
To: 'Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement'
Subject: RE: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Thank you for this report Dr. Molone. Dr. Morse will respond soon.

Regards,
Joan

From: Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement <vcre@umass.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 4:04 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Jesse Mager <jmager@vasci.umass.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement <vcre@umass.edu>
Subject: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find the attached letter reporting on an adverse event that occurred on Saturday, July 20, 2019. We look forward to your acknowledgement and feel free to reach out to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement
Ronnie & Eugene Isenberg Distinguished Professor of Engineering
University of Massachusetts Amherst
(b) (6)