



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

December 13, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3469-01 [OLAW Case O]

Dr. Michael R. Van Scott
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
East Carolina University
2200 South Charles Blvd., MS 157
Greenville, North Carolina 27834

Dear Dr. Van Scott,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 12 and June 6, 2018 letters reporting an adverse event involving fish at East Carolina University, following up on an initial telephone report on November 17, 2017. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 22 captive wild fish died due to loss of tank aeration caused by a limited power failure.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of relocating the surviving fish to another animal facility with power. The fish will be housed in the other facility permanently and emergency contact information has been posted. The failed circuit breaker was replaced, a second one was also installed, and an automated system with alarm was installed which will monitor power for environmental support systems in the animal facilities. The system was tested and is working correctly and will alert staff in the event of a power failure.

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. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



Office of the Vice Chancellor
Division of Research, Economic Development & Engagement
Greenville Centre, Suite 1500 | 2200 South Charles Boulevard | Mail Stop 157
East Carolina University | Greenville, NC 27858-4353
252-328-9471 office | goldenj17@ecu.edu

12 December 2018

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM, Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKI, 1, Suite 360 MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please accept this final report (verbal report filed in November 2017 by Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke, Attending Veterinarian, and interim written report filed June 6, 2018 by me) from East Carolina University (PHS Assurance A346901). As a final mitigation, ECU installed an automated system to monitor electrical power for environmental support systems in the animal facilities. In the case of power failure, local alarms sound, and staff are alerted of the power failure, enabling them to either address the malfunction or relocate the animals. The system has been tested and is functioning properly. Please let us know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael Van Scott, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

www.ecu.edu

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 6:49 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: PHS Assurance A3469-01: Final report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Thank you for this report (b) (6) I will send a response shortly.
Axel Wolff

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:19 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: O'Rourke, Dorcas; (b) (6) Van Scott, Michael
Subject: PHS Assurance A3469-01: Final report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Hello, Dr. Wolff –

The final report on the incident referenced above is attached.

Regards,

(b) (6)

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:32 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: PHS Assurance A3469-01: Interim report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Thank you for this interim report. We will add to the case file and look forward to receiving the final report when all corrective actions have been completed.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: O'Rourke, Dorcas <OROURKED@ecu.edu>; (b) (6) Van Scott, Michael
(b) (6) <VANSCOTTMI@ecu.edu>

Subject: PHS Assurance A346901: interim report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Dear Dr. Wolff –

Please see attached letter as referenced in the subject line.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Michael Van Scott at (b) (6), vanscottmi@ecu.edu, or Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke at (b) (6) orourke@ecu.edu.

Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 2:00 PM
To: 'O'Rourke, Dorcas'
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O

Thanks Dr. Rourke, I appreciate the update.

Neera

From: O'Rourke, Dorcas [mailto:OROURKED@ecu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O

Neera,

I am forwarding the emails containing the interim report to Axel Wolff and Dr. Wolff's response indicating receipt of the interim report in June. We will be submitting a final report as soon as the installation of the system is complete (it is currently underway). Please let me know if you need additional information. Thank you.

Dorcas

Dorcas P. O'Rourke, DVM, MS, DACLAM
Professor and Chair, Dept of Comparative Medicine
The Brody School of Medicine
Attending Veterinarian, East Carolina University
600 Moye Blvd, LSB Room (b) (4)
Greenville, NC 27834
(b) (6)
fax
orourked@ecu.edu

From: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] [mailto:neera.gopee@nih.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 12:00 PM
To: O'Rourke, Dorcas <OROURKED@ecu.edu>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O
Importance: High

Dear Dr. O'Rourke,

As a follow-up to my email communication on May 18, 2018, OLAW still has no record of receipt of an interim or final report with reference to the preliminary noncompliance case reported on November 17, 2018, in which an electrical failure resulted in the death of 21 fish at East Carolina University. This reminder is being sent requesting either the final or an interim report be submitted to OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) olawdco@od.nih.gov no later than **August 27, 2018**.

Best Regards,
Neera

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 5:11 PM
To: 'O'Rourke, Dorcas' <OROURKED@ecu.edu>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O

Thank you for the prompt response. I look forward to receiving the interim report in the near future.

Neera

From: O'Rourke, Dorcas [<mailto:OROURKED@ecu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O

Dear Dr. Gopee:

We were waiting to submit a final report when all IACUC recommendations had been addressed (the most critical items were addressed immediately); however, we will submit an interim report when I return from meetings at the end of May.

Regards,
Dorcas

From: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 1:47 PM
To: O'Rourke, Dorcas
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Request for on preliminary noncompliance report for A3469-O

Dear Dr. O'Rourke,



Office of Research Administration & Compliance
Division of Research, Economic Development, & Engagement
1516 Greenville Centre | 2200 South Charles Boulevard | Mail Stop 157
Greenville, NC 27858-4353 | www.ecu.edu/rede
252-328-9479 office | vanscottmi@ecu.edu

6 June 2018

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM, Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360 MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please accept this interim report (verbal report filed in November 2017 by Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke, Attending Veterinarian) from East Carolina University (PHS Assurance A3469-01), describing immediate actions taken, subsequent IACUC investigation, and permanent corrections being instituted following a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks in one laboratory. The loss of aeration resulted in the deaths of 22 newly-collected wild fish. There was no morbidity or mortality resulting from aeration loss to acclimated wild fish in the laboratory.

Following the incident, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) was informed, and all fish from the lab were immediately relocated to an animal facility that had not been impacted by the outage. These fish will remain there permanently. The AV reported the incident to the IACUC, and a subcommittee was appointed to gather information regarding the outage and make recommendations for preventing future occurrences. The subcommittee met independently with the PI and her students, the department chair and manager, and members of Facility Services. They then presented their findings and recommendations to the convened IACUC, and the IACUC approved these recommendations.

The fish are now permanently housed in an animal facility, and signage indicating emergency contact information for laboratory personnel, veterinarians, and facility personnel is prominently posted. The circuit breaker that failed was completely replaced; a second main breaker is being installed, and an automated monitoring and alarm system is being purchased.

A final report will be submitted when installation of the automated monitoring and alarm system is complete. The impacted animals were not part of a PHS funded research project.

Please let us know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

Michael R. Van Scott, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:32 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: PHS Assurance A3469-01: Interim report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Thank you for this interim report. We will add to the case file and look forward to receiving the final report when all corrective actions have been completed.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: O'Rourke, Dorcas <OROURKED@ecu.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) Van Scott, Michael <VANSOTTMI@ecu.edu>
Subject: PHS Assurance A3469-01: Interim report on a limited power failure resulting in loss of aeration to multiple fish tanks

Dear Dr. Wolff –

Please see attached letter as referenced in the subject line.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Michael Van Scott at (b) (6) vanscottmi@ecu.edu, or Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke at (b) (6) orourked@ecu.edu.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *and*Date: *11/17/17*

Time:

Name of Person reporting: *Dorcas O'Rourke*Telephone #: *(b) (6)*

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: *EAST Carolina U*Assurance number: *A3469*Did incident involve PHS funded activity? *NO*

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

2.1 fish died from electrical failure

Species involved:

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

Repair system

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____