



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) 480-3387

June 30, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3141-01 [OLAW Case 3G]

Ms. Candice Yekel
Associate Vice President for Research
Director, Office for Research Protection
Pennsylvania State University
330 Building, (b) (6)
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Ms. Yekel,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 19, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Pennsylvania State University. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the Pennsylvania State University Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to inappropriate handling of hazardous waste from animals. The final report states on March 2, 2023, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) reported a concern regarding a lab group and their handling of soiled cages after work with mice that had been treated with a substance. It is also stated the substance is a chemical hazard that requires special handling procedures of soiled cages and bedding. Per the report, the Principal Investigator (PI) affirmed that all lab personnel working with this substance had previously received the required training.

Corrective actions implemented to prevent future recurrence of a similar incident included:

- Consultation with the Biosafety Officer and AV to review procedures.
- The hazard SOP was updated to describe procedures more clearly.
- Veterinary staff provided retraining of hazard handling procedure to all lab members.

The IACUC reviewed the matter and determined the corrective actions were acceptable. It is noted that this research project is supported by PHS funding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Pennsylvania State University has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Page 2 – Ms. Yekel
June 29, 2023
OLAW Case A3141-3G

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T.
Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn
T. Tubbs -S
Date: 2023.06.30 08:18:20
-04'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM
Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

A3141-36



PennState

Candice A. Yekel
Associate Vice President for Research
Director of Research Protections
The Pennsylvania State University
110 Technology Center
University Park, PA 16802

814-865-1775
cay3@psu.edu
research.psu.edu/orp

May 19, 2023

Dr. Brent Morse, DVM
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive
Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

Dear Dr. Morse:

The Pennsylvania State University, in accordance with Assurance A3141-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report regarding non-compliance with the PHS Policy. The activities were associated with a protocol that is supported by PHS funds (#R00AI147165). This issue was first reviewed by the IACUC on March 21, 2023.

On March 2, 2023, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) reported a concern involving a lab group that was improperly handling soiled cages following work with mice that had been treated with methyl mercury. Per the report, the substance is a chemical hazard that requires special handling procedures of the soiled cages and bedding. In this incident, the soiled bedding was not completely removed from the cages before they were autoclaved and returned for washing. The Principal Investigator (PI) confirmed that all lab personnel working with this chemical hazard had previously received required training.

In response to the incident, the PI consulted with the Biosafety Officer and AV to review procedures. As a result, the hazard handling SOP was updated to describe procedures more clearly. Additionally, veterinary staff provided retraining of hazard handling procedures to all lab members.

The IACUC reviewed this incident and determined it to be noncompliance for not following institutional policies and procedures and found the corrective actions to be acceptable.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Candice A. Yekel
Institutional Official

cc: Dr. Gary L. Borkowski, AAALAC International Global Director

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: PSU Final Report of NCI 5.22.2023B
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:49:59 PM

Good afternoon (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report and we will send an official response soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA ([pronunciation](#))
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: devora.mccoy@nih.gov

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:47 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: AAALAC International <accredit@aaalac.org>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PSU Final Report of NCI 5.22.2023B

Good morning,

Please see the attached final report of non-compliance. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

<https://www.research.psu.edu/orp>

The Office for Research Protections at University Park is operating remotely. Please email or call to arrange a Zoom meeting or conference call as needed.

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