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mail

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Elzie, Teri L

From: Brad_Frazier@r1.fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 3:37 PM
To: stuartharris@ctuir.com; gadbois.larry@epa.gov; lgol461@ecy.wa.gov; Helen_Hillman@hazmat.noaa.gov; Nick.ladanza@noaa.gov; Jake_Jakobosky@or.blm.gov; JMCC461@ECY.WA.GOV; danl@nezperce.org; cpalmer@yakama.com; JosephRichards@ctuir.com; preston_sleeper@ios.doi.gov; susan.c.hughs@state.or.us; ddteel@bhi-erc.com; viguelav@dfw.wa.gov; tzeilman@yakama.com; jamie_zeisloft@rl.gov; Tom_OBrien@r1.fws.gov
Cc: Aaron_DeLonay@usgs.gov; Aida_Farag@usgs.gov; dd.dauble@pnl.gov; gw_patton@pnl.gov; TLElzie@mail.bhi-erc.com; Dan_Audet@r1.fws.gov
Subject: Time line for Freezer Thaw of Chromium Toxicity Study Tissues

Hanford Trustees and others:

Some of you may or may not have heard that the blood samples from the PNNL early life stage toxicity test that were pending possible DNA strand-breakage analysis may have been compromised due to the storage freezer having a power outage. The message below from Greg Patton of PNNL was sent to Aaron DeLonay of USGS who forwarded it to me. It contains the details of the problem that occurred. We have asked Aida Farag of USGS for her opinion of whether the samples are compromised. We await her response.

Brad

----- Forwarded by Brad E Frazier/UCRB/R1/FWS/DOI on 05/23/01 03:13 PM -----

"Aaron J
 Delonay" To: brad_e_frazier@r1.fws.gov
 <aaron_delonay cc: dan_audet@r1.fws.gov
 @usgs.gov> Subject: Time line for Freezer Thaw of
 Chromium Toxicity Study Tissues
 05/22/01 11:46
 AM

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 JAN 15 2008
 EDMC

Brad,

Attached is the written summary I requested from Greg Patton regarding the freezer outage and the current status of the blood DNA samples. The details listed in this report match my recollection of Greg's earlier phone conversation. Jay McConnaughey had requested specific details on this issue. You may pass along this information as you deem appropriate.

Best regards,

Aaron J. DeLonay
 Ecologist
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Columbia Environmental Research Center
 Columbia, Missouri

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cc:

05/22/01 Subject: Time line for Freezer
Thaw of Chromium Toxicity Study
01:25 PM Tissues

All,

Aaron requested that I provide a written summary of the timeline and extent of the loss of electrical power to the PNNL -80 C freezer where the samples for blood DNA analysis were stored.

On May 2, 2001, I (GWP) received a call from Irv Shultz (operator of the -80 C freezer) to inform me that the freezer experienced a thaw because of an electrical power outage. Apparently, on Feb. 3, 2001 (Saturday) to Feb. 5, 2001 (Monday) the freezer experienced a power outage. The power outage was limited to a single circuit so no visible signs of a power outage were present and the freezer was not equipped with an alarm. On Monday (2/5/01) a puddle of melted water (from the frost in the freezer) was observed on the floor. A quick inventory of some of the freezer contents was taken and then the power was restored to the freezer. The power was off for approximately 36 hrs and the temperature in the freezer was sufficient to melt some of the freezer frost (internal temperature in the thawed freezer was estimated to be 33-34 F). From the quick inventory, it was concluded that most samples with volumes larger than 5 mL were still frozen. For samples with small volumes 2 mL or less, most of the samples were thawed or partially thawed. The blood DNA samples from our test were small volume samples (<0.5 mL) and it is very likely that these samples were thawed. The blood DNA samples were stored in a random manner in one cardboard sample box. The blood DNA samples were stored on the top shelf of the -80 freezer. Irv Shultz stated that in past years when this freezer had experience electrical outages, after a 24 hr outage the internal temperature was roughly -20 C.

On May 3, 2001, I sent an email to DD Dauble, Jamie Zeisloft to report this freezer thaw and Aaron DeLonay was contacted by phone on 5/3/01 and a voice mail was left to report this freezer thaw. The initial email was placed into the PNNL laboratory record notebook.

The samples were moved on 5/22/01 from this freezer to another -80 C

email reflects an additional discussion of the freezer thaw event with Irv Shultz on 5/22/01.

Please contact me with any questions.

Greg Patton