



Office of Environmental
Health & Safety

50 Medical Center Way
San Francisco, CA
94143-0942
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November 21, 2011

John Gregson
Sr. Inspector
SF PUC

Re: UCSF / Parnassus Campus – Response to 11/4/2011 Warning Notice

In response to the warning notice issued by your office, dated November 4, 2011, UCSF Environmental Health and Safety conducted an investigation to identify possible sources for pH exceedences monitored on 10/21 at the Laurel Heights facility, sampling point D. UCSF Facilities Management identified the sample point as the main sanitary sewer line servicing the Laurel Heights Annex building, which houses the physical plant in support of the main building.

The Chief Engineer was queried for any information regarding cleaning, maintenance, construction or demolition that may result in unusual waste water discharge in October. The Chief Engineer reported that other than routine emissions, boiler #2 had developed a leak in late October and as a result, was drained, refilled and drained again for testing purposes. This process occurred over several days including the violation period.

Recent water analysis of the current online boiler (boiler #1) shows pH within the boiler at 12.1. While this is not direct evidence, it does suggest that the boiler activities in October may have been responsible for the exceedence (pH 11.7). Facilities Management has agreed to pH the boiler water should it require draining.

No significant change in chemical inventory, water treatment chemicals or maintenance procedures were noted within the past 12 months.

If your department monitors any additional exceedences, do not hesitate to contact me directly and we will redouble our efforts.

Sincerely,

Travis Clark
Environmental Specialist
Office of Environment Health and Safety
UC San Francisco
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UCSF LAUREL HEIGHTS

Facility Layout





UCSF
Laurel Heights
3333 California Street
Annex Engineering Office
San Francisco California 94118
(415) 885-3565

Report Number: 2924
Recorded By: Floyd Thomas
(800) 647-9577
fthomas@sjc-inc.com

Annex Engineering Building - Boiler Water Systems					
Test	Raw	Soft	Feedwater	B #1	Condensate
Conductivity (as mmhos)	158	161	97	4400	29
Limits	300 max	1000 max	50 - 150	2500 - 4000	100 max
pH	9.2	9.1	9.4	12.1	8.4
Limits	6.5 min	7 - 10	8 - 10	10.2 - 12	7.5 - 9.2
Hardness, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	50	0	0		0
Limits	150 max	2 max	2 max		2 max
Alkalinity, P (ppm as CaCO ₃)	10			400	
Limits	25 max			300 - 500	
Alkalinity, M (ppm as CaCO ₃)	50			450	
Limits	100 max			600 max	
Alkalinity, OH (ppm as CaCO ₃)				350	
Limits				150 - 500	
Oxidizing Reduction Potential	226				
Limits	400 max				
Phosphate (ppm as PO ₄)				0	
Limits				30 - 60	
Sodium Sulfite (ppm as Na ₂ SO ₃)				4	
Limits				20 - 60	

Boiler #1

Online

Conductivity is above range limit. Recommend scheduled 5 second "Puff" blowdown once a day to purge sludge from the system as well as maintaining proper conductivity control.

- Phosphate (ppm as PO₄)**
level under range limit due to low online treatment drum.
- Sodium Sulfite (ppm as Na₂SO₃)**
level under range limit due to low online treatment drum.

Boiler #2

Online

System on Stanby status.

Boiler 3

Online

System on Stanby status.