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Mr. Richard Frankie
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Dear Richard:

You have asked me to review specific seasons of "Beakman's World" in order to give you a determination regarding whether the shows "further the educational, informational needs of children" aged 13 – 16 as stipulated in the Children's Television Act of 1990 and the Children's TV Rules of 1996.

I am in the process of conducting the reviews and I am pleased to give you preliminary comments based on screenings of sample episodes from Seasons 1 and 4.

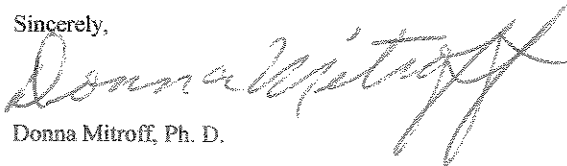
There is no question but that "Beakman's World" furthers the educational, information needs of children aged 13 – 16. The entire series deals with science and the task of making science accessible and understandable. It offers scientific content, scientific theories, the vocabulary and facts of science and the processes of scientific thinking. The scientific content of "Beakman's World" overlaps with a significant number of the standards for science education that are prevalent in the curricula of today's schools. For example, children in the target age group of 13 to 16 years of age will be in grades 7 through 10. In these grades, experts in both science education and the developmental needs of the age group have recommended that these children can and need to focus their learning on the physical sciences and the life sciences along with learning the processes of investigation and experimentation. In the episodes I have screened to date, there have been examples from these areas. In the physical science area for instance, Beakman both discussed and demonstrated the concepts of density and displacement with an experiment explaining why a steel boat floats while a steel bar sinks. In the life science area, Beakman explained the concept of migration and illustrated it with video of migrating birds, butterflies, caribou, salmon and grey whales. Throughout the series, Beakman conducts replicable experiments to illustrate the processes of investigation and experimentation.

In addition to the scientific content of the episodes of "Beakman's World," it is also important to point out that the design of the series will appeal to the target age group. This age group represents the span from early adolescence through the teen-age years. These are years of transition for youngsters from late childhood to adulthood. They are moving from dependence to independence and toward greater autonomy and self-reliance. Their cognitive capabilities expand and their thinking becomes more adult-like. During this time of separation from adult authority, youngsters seek out non-traditional sources of authority. Paul Zaloom's portrayal of Beakman is exactly that – a non-traditional source of authority who answers science questions in a non-traditional way. The quirky, humorous, lively and colorful production values of "Beakman's World" will appeal to youngsters in the 13 to 16 year old age group.

In conclusion, I attest that the series "Beakman's World" meets the criteria for furthering the educational, information needs of children aged 13 to 16. At the conclusion of the review process, I will provide a description of the educational and informational objectives of the series and how it meets the definition of Core Programming.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to bring this excellent program to the target age group.

Sincerely,



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