

REGION I
NMSS LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

B12
Sutton

License No. 999-9001
Docket No. N/A
MLER-RI 2000-003

LICENSEE Pennsylvania State Univ.

EVENT DESCRIPTION Loss/Theft of Exit Signs containing Tritium

EVENT DATE 11/9/99 REPORT DATE 12/7/99

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss
- 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report
- 10 CFR 30.50 Report
- Other _____
- 10 CFR 35.33 Misadministration
- License Condition

2. REGION I RESPONSE

- Immediate Site Inspection Inspector/Date _____
- Special Inspection Inspector/Date S. Lodhi / 5/9/00
- Telephone Inquiry Inspector/Date S. Lodhi / 12-7-99
- Preliminary Notification Daily Report
- Information Entered on the Region I Log
- Review at Next Routine Inspection
- Report Referred to _____

3. REPORT EVALUATION

- Description of Event
- Levels of RAM Involved
- Cause of Event
- Corrective Actions
- Calculation Adequate
- Letter to Licensee Requesting Additional Information

4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

Completed by Cheryl K. Benacka

Date 12/17/99

Reviewed by Sutton White

Date 12/17/99

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-053

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region I staff (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania) on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Pennsylvania State University	Notification of Unusual Event
Pennsylvania State University	Alert
University Park, Pennsylvania	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 99990001 License No: General Licen	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: LOSS OR THEFT OF SELF-LUMINESCENT EXIT SIGNS CONTAINING TRITIUM

The Radiation Safety Officer of Pennsylvania State University notified Region I on December 6, 1999, that six to eight exit signs containing hydrogen 3 (tritium) were missing from their campus located in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. The signs were apparently installed in July, 1989, and were noted missing from the installed location by licensee's personnel in 1997. The RSO stated that he was not made aware of the missing signs until November 9, 1999.

The RSO informed Region I on December 7, 1999, that the licensee is conducting an investigation of the event, and a 30-day report of the event will be sent to the NRC, as required by 10 CFR 20.2201.

The notification stated that the missing signs were manufactured by Perm-Ex Mnfg., and were of series P-160, Model T-4001. However, Region I determined that the exit signs described by the licensee are manufactured and distributed by NRD, Inc., located in Grand Island, NY. The RSO of NRD, Inc. stated that each of these exit signs may contain as much as 20 curies of tritium. NRD, Inc. is searching its records to determine how many such signs were sold to Pennsylvania State University to be installed at its New Kensington Campus.

This information is current as of 10:30 a.m., December 7, 1999. Region I is continuing its follow up of the event.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of the event. Region I is prepared to respond to inquiries by the media.

Contact: Sattar Lodhi	John Kinneman
(611)033-7534	(610)337-5252

OTHER NUCLEAR MATERIAL

EVENT NUMBER: 36490

LICENSEE: PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
CITY: UNIVERSITY PARK REGION: 1
COUNTY: CENTRE STATE: PA
LICENSE#: 37-00185-04 AGREEMENT: N
DOCKET:

NOTIFICATION DATE: 12/06/99
NOTIFICATION TIME: 16:05 [ET]
EVENT DATE: 11/09/99
EVENT TIME: [EST]
LAST UPDATE DATE: 12/06/99

NOTIFICATIONS

CLIFFORD ANDERSON	R1
JOSEPHINE PICCONE	NMSS
CHARLES MILLER	IRO
LEDYARD (TAD) MARSH	NRR
MARVIN MENDONCA	PM

NRC NOTIFIED BY: ERIC BOELDT
HQ OPS OFFICER: LEIGH TROCINE

EMERGENCY CLASS: NON EMERGENCY
10 CFR SECTION:
BAB1 LOST/STOLEN LNM>1000X

EVENT TEXT

LOSS OR THEFT OF SIX TO EIGHT SELF-LUMINESCENT EXIT SIGNS (POTENTIALLY TRITIUM FILLED) FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY NEW KENSINGTON CAMPUS IN 1997

On November 9, 1999, a maintenance foreman at the Pennsylvania State University New Kensington Campus (located approximately 40 miles north of Pittsburgh) notified Nuclear Radiation Development (located in University Park, Centre County) of the disappearance of approximately six to eight self-luminescent exit signs from a New Kensington facility. The signs were first noticed to be missing some time in 1997, and the individual who initially discovered the loss thought that students from an apartment complex may have taken them because the signs were ripped down from the walls at night or over a weekend. This individual wanted to conduct a search of the apartments but was told to drop the issue by another individual at the New Kensington Campus.

The licensee stated that six new signs were purchased during May of 1998, and six additional signs were recently installed. (Only six or eight are missing, and extra signs have been installed.) The need to notify Nuclear Radiation Development was identified when the new signs were recently installed.

The missing exit signs were initially installed during new construction in July of 1989. They were manufactured by Perm-Ex (Series P-160, Model T-4001, self-luminous type containing nuclear material). It is currently believed that the exit signs were tritium filled.

The licensee notified the NRC region 1 office (Jim Dwyer and Sattar Lodhi)

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and plans to submit a 30-day written report to the regional office. (Call the NRC operations officer for a licensee contact telephone number.)