



2000 FEB 28 PM 3:39

February 25, 2000

Sattar Lodhi
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch, Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUBJECT: General License, New Kensington Exit Sign

Dear Mr. Lodhi:

At 4:00 p.m. on January 31, 2000, Richard A. Manslow of The Pennsylvania State University's New Kensington campus reported to the University's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) office that a self-luminous exit sign had been stolen the previous weekend. The sign contained about 6.1 curies of tritium. Eric Boeldt, Manager of Radiation Protection, reported the missing sign to the NRC Operation Center at 4:50 p.m. that same day.

The sign was purchased about May 8, 1998 from Nuclear Radiation Development of Grand Island, New York and its serial number is 119,704. It was installed on November 5, 1999. The sign was in its proper place in the early morning hours of January 28 and noticed missing at about 3:00 p.m. on January 31, 2000. It had been installed near room 128 in the Science and Technology Center at the New Kensington Campus.

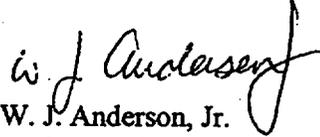
In an attempt to have the sign returned, notices were posted throughout the buildings at the New Kensington campus asking for the sign to be returned. A copy of the notice is attached. We have had no response to our postings.

The remaining self-luminous signs at the New Kensington Campus were removed by February 2, 2000, and will be replaced with electric signs.

Penn State is in the process of inventorying all self-luminous signs and removing all of these that are not installed in well controlled locations. A substantial portion of this inventory has been completed and we expect to complete this inspection throughout the approximate 650 University buildings by April 1, 2000. At that time we will decide which signs must be replaced with electric signs.

If you have any further questions or concerns, or require more information, please contact Eric Boeldt at ejb6@psu.edu or 814-865-6391.

Sincerely,



W. J. Anderson, Jr.
Assistant Vice President for Physical Plant
814-865-4402, Fax 814-863-7757
E-mail wja3@psu.edu

cc: Eric Boeldt

NOTICE

An “Exit” sign was removed from the Science/Tech building between January 27th and January 31st. This sign contains radioactive material and is a violation of the Federal Law to remove, destroy, or discard any of these signs. If the person or persons responsible for this act of vandalism are caught, they can be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and suspended from Penn State University. If the sign is returned to the maintenance department, no charges will be brought against the Individual(s). Please help the University in the return of this sign.

DCS No.: 99990001000131
Date: February 1, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-I-00-005

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility: Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 99990001
License No.: General Licensee
Event No.: 36646
Event Location Code:

SUBJECT: THEFT OF A SELF-LUMINESCENT EXIT SIGN CONTAINING TRITIUM

At 4:52 p.m. on January 31, 2000, the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) of Pennsylvania State University notified the NRC Operations Center that an exit sign containing hydrogen 3 (tritium) was stolen from a building on the New Kensington Campus.

In response to a follow-up by Region I, the RSO stated that the missing exit sign was installed in a classroom, and the janitor assigned to the classroom remembered the sign being in place in the early morning of Friday, January 28, 2000. The sign was noted missing in the afternoon of January 31, 2000. He also stated that the sign was an NRD model with serial number 119704, and contained 19 curies of tritium.

The Licensee is in a process of replacing all such exit signs with those that do not contain radioactive material at the New Kensington Campus. The RSO stated that notices requesting return of the stolen sign, with a promise of amnesty, are being posted in buildings on the New Kensington Campus.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., February 1, 2000. 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
(610) 337 5364 (610) 337 5252

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(Reactor Licensees)

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. July 9, 1999)

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNI-I-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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility: Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 999-90001
License No.: General Licensee
Event No.: 36490
Event Location Code :

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
(610) 337 5364

John Kinneman
(610) 337 5252

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. July 9, 1999)