

Region I NMSS Licensee Event Report

Licensee NIH
 Event Description LOSS OF SELF LUMINOUS EXIT SIGNS

License # General License Docket # MLER-RI 2002-025
 Event Date 4-12-02 Report Date 5-13-02

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 35.33 Misadministration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report | <input type="checkbox"/> | License Condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 30.50 Report | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

2. REGION I RESPONSE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Immediate Site Inspection | Inspector/Date | <u> </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Inspection | Inspector/Date | <u> </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone Inquiry | Inspector/Date | <u> </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Preliminary Report | <input type="checkbox"/> | Daily Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Information Entered in RI Log | <input type="checkbox"/> | Review at next inspection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Report referred to: _____ | | |

3. REPORT EVALUATION

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Description of Event | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corrective Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Levels of RAM Involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calculations Adequate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cause of Event | <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional Information Requested from Licensee |

4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

Review in telephone call.

Public Non-Public

Completed by:	<u>[Signature]</u>	Date	<u>9.16.2002</u>
Reviewed by:	<u>[Signature]</u>	Date	<u>9.16.2002</u>

May 13, 2002

FAX To:

**Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
Fax # 610-337-5241**

From:

**Bob Zoon
Radiation Safety Officer
Radiation Safety Branch, DS
National Institutes of Health**

**301-496-2254
FAX 301-496-3544**

Subject:

**Report in accordance with NRC correspondence of 2/14/2001 - Generally
Licensed materials.**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

May 13, 2002

Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

RE: Generally Licensed Material - Possible **Loss** of Self Luminous Exit Signs

VIA FAX

Dear **Sir**:

This **is a** written report in accordance with **NRC** correspondence of February **14**, 2001 to **NRC** General Licensees.

On April 12, **2002** I was informed through one of my **staff**, by a member of NIH's Division of Engineering Services (**DES**) that three self luminous **exit** signs (**SLES**) were **not found during** certain quarterly inventories of these devices. We immediately began **an** investigation to determine what could have happened, since an extensive system of accounting, inventorying and control has been in place **to** prevent this exact type of event and, in fact, **we** were completing a program to collect and replace **all** of the SLES with non-radioactive signs.

As of this date, in spite of all our efforts, **we** cannot account for two of the signs which were in areas of Building 10 on the NIH campus which underwent renovation recently. Our investigation has revealed that the third sign thought **lost is**, in fact, one of the signs turned over to the Radioactive Waste Service for legal disposal. A one page report is enclosed for your information. At this time our investigation is continuing to attempt to determine the disposition of the two signs.

All remaining **SLES** which had been previously or recently inventoried have been accounted for.

Please contact **me** if you or your staff have questions or need additional information. I **may be** reached at 301-496-2254 or by email at zoonr@mail.nih.gov.

Since

Robert A. Zoon, **ME M.S.**
Radiation **Safety** officer, **NIH**

Enclosure

cc: **Dr. Liotta, Chair, RSC, NIH**

Report to NRC on Missing EXIT signs

- What:** Two **self** luminous EXIT signs (**SLES**) containing **H-3 gas**. Activities **7.5 - 20 Ci each**.
- When:** **#1.** **Was** not located in inventory **of** 10/24/2001; reported **as** possibly missing to the Radiation **Safety** Branch (**RSB**) NIH Area Health Physicist **on** 04/12/2002.
- #2.** Was not located **in** inventory of 01/31/2002; reported **as possibly** missing **to** the NIH Area **Health** Physicist **on** 04/12/2002.
- Where:** **#1.** **Building** 10/B3 Floor B corridor service elevator lobby.
- #2.** Building 10, near **B I D** 501.
- Circumstances:** Both **areas** were **recently** renovated. The signs were most likely removed during **the** renovations and their disposition **is** unknown **at** this time.
- Actions taken:** Areas were inspected for **the** signs by DES **and** **RSB** staff. **Project** officers for the renovation projects, **as well as** renovation contractor staff, have been contacted.
- Exposures to individuals:** **No** known exposures to **any** individuals. The signs **are** quite durable in construction and are probably intact. **If any of** the luminous segments of the sign **were** broken **following** disposal, the signs **are** manufactured with a secondary containment **for** tritium gas. **If the** secondary containment **was compromised**, tritium **gas** would disperse into **the atmosphere**.
- Actions taken to prevent reoccurrence:** **Since** February, 2001, the **RSB** and the NIH Division of Engineering **Services (DES)** have been inventorying **SLES** to account for all **such** signs deployed on **NIH** property to **collect** all **SLES** for proper **disposal** through a licensed vendor. The retrieved signs are being replaced **by** non-radioactive **types**. The missing signs **were** discovered during the Building 10 inventory procedure, which **was** performed quarterly **by** the DES.