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# **Environmental Services**

Rich Dailey, Sr. Director **Radiation Safety Officer** 

July 15, 2008

Charles Miller, Director Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission One White Flint North 11545 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852

Subject:

Report of Damaged Tritium Exit Signs

Dear Dr. Miller:

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 31.5(a), Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") is a general licensee of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") because it possesses and uses byproduct material in the form of tritium exit signs ("TES") regulated by the NRC. Consistent with 10 CFR § 31.5(c)(5), Wal-Mart is providing the subject report regarding two damaged TES that it discovered at store #5384 located in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Attachment A provides a brief description of the events associated with the damaged TES and corrective actions taken. Information on all damaged TES is provided below:

Serial #	<u>Curies</u>	Damage Date	Store Location
347215	11.5	unknown	1130 Hwy. 77, Bridgeton, NJ
347231	11.5	unknown	1130 Hwy. 77, Bridgeton, NJ

Please contact me at (479) 204-9914, if you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached report.

Sincerely,

Richard Dailev Radiation Safety Officer

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Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Angela Washington, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. cc:

Thomas Poindexter, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

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#### Attachment A

## A. <u>Description of Events</u>

On June 15, 2008, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") representatives and its contractor Shaw Group, Inc. ("Shaw") visited Wal-Mart store #5384 in Bridgeton, New Jersey to inventory tritium exit signs ("TES"). Wal-Mart has retained Shaw, an environmental services contractor with extensive experience with the management of radioactive material, for its company-wide program to inventory TES. During the inventory at the Bridgeton store, Shaw discovered two damaged TES. The first TES, Serial #347215, had a broken frame and broken tritium-containing tubes. It is installed in the non-public stockroom area of the store. The second TES, Serial #347231, was missing its frame and had a cracked faceplate and tritium-containing tubes that failed a glow test. This TES is installed in the tire and lube area of the store.

## B. Actions Taken

Interviews with the store managers and associates indicated that TES Serial #347215 was hit by a forklift and that TES Serial #347231 was damaged by a tire. The individuals interviewed did not know when the damage occurred to either TES though. The Wal-Mart Radiation Safety Officer ("RSO") directed a Certified Health Physicist ("CHP") from Dade Moeller & Associates ("Dade Moeller") to visit the Bridgeton store to conduct radiological surveys, package the TES for disposal, and decontaminate the areas to ALARA levels, as necessary. Dade Moeller is a contractor retained by Wal-Mart with the responsibility to assess the radiological impacts of damaged TES. A CHP is planning to visit the Bridgeton store by August 1, 2008. Wal-Mart anticipates providing the NRC with a supplemental report within 30 days after the date of that visit.

### C. Long-term Corrective Actions

Wal-Mart has implemented and communicated protocols to its stores for the proper handling of TES to ensure public health and safety and the protection of its employees. It is also inventorying all of the TES at its sites across the country to re-establish the accuracy of its records and to track the current locations of the TES. The intent of this program is to ensure that all TES are accounted for and are handled properly. As a part of this program, Wal-Mart has employed Shaw to inventory TES, and a team of CHPs from Dade Moeller to properly handle TES and prepare and arrange for their return to a specific licensee.

#### D. Shipping Details

Wal-Mart anticipates shipping the damaged TES to a specific licensee authorized to receive the damaged TES, within 30 days after the date of the CHP visit.