

"Saving People Money So They Can Live Better"



Environmental Services

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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 Sign

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 one damaged TES that it discovered at store #3630, located in Marion, Iowa.

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

<u>Serial #</u>	<u>Curies</u>	<u>Damage Date</u>	<u>Store Location</u>
345261	11.5	unknown	5491 Bus. Hwy. 151, Marion, IA

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

Sincerely,

Richard Dailey
Radiation Safety Officer
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

FSME - GDE10 - SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

"PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE"

08/06/2008

cc: Angela Washington, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Thomas Poindexter, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

FSMETO

Attachment A

A. Description of Events

On June 12, 2008, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") representatives and its contractor Shaw Group, Inc. ("Shaw") visited Wal-Mart store #3630 in Marion, Iowa 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 Marion store, Shaw discovered one damaged TES in which some tritium-containing tubes, while intact, failed a glow test. The TES is installed in the main area of the store.

B. Actions Taken

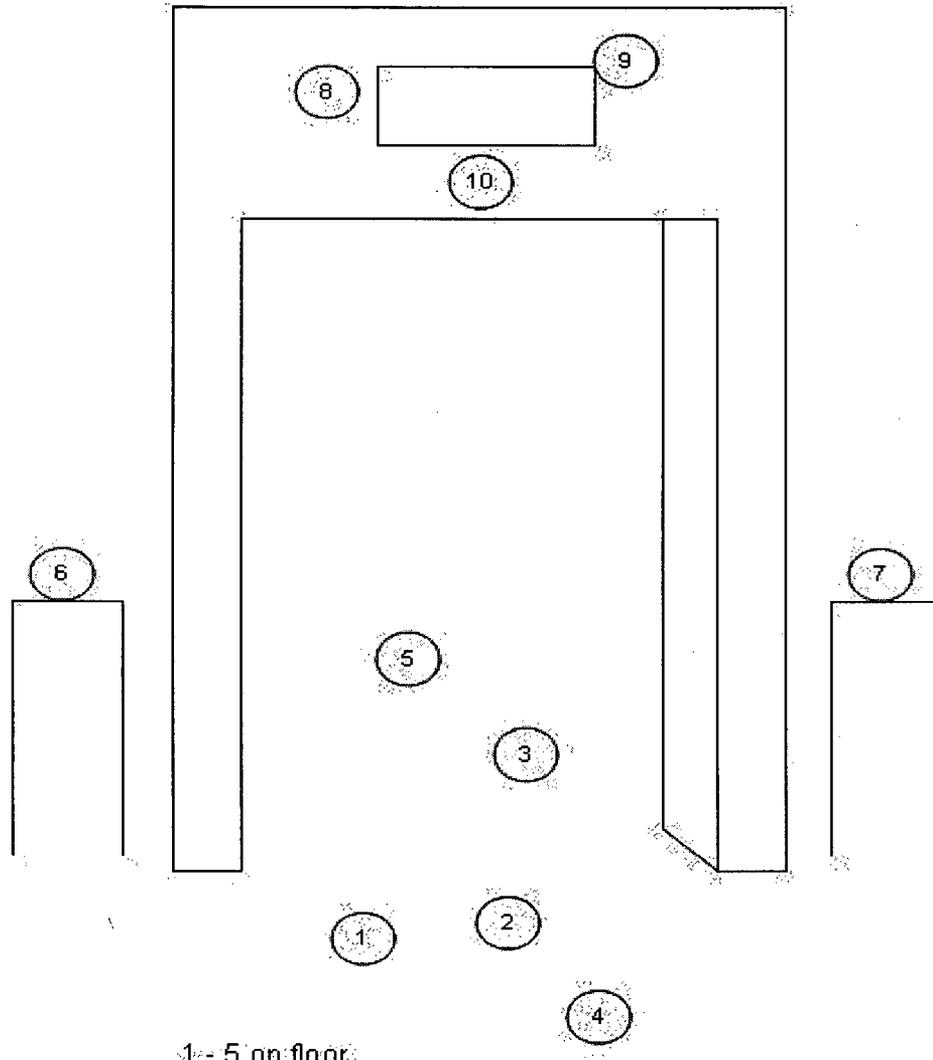
Interviews with the store managers and associates provided no information as to how and when the TES was damaged. Shaw removed and packaged the TES for transfer according to protocols established by Isolite, a specific licensee authorized to receive TES for disposal. The Wal-Mart Radiation Safety Officer ("RSO") directed a Certified Health Physicist ("CHP") from Dade Moeller & Associates ("Dade Moeller") to visit the Marion 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 visited the Marion store on July 1, 2008. The CHP interviewed store managers and associates but did not obtain any information regarding how and when the TES was damaged. The CHP conducted swipe surveys of the areas deemed likely to have become contaminated by wiping a 100 cm² area (approximately 4 X 4 inches) with a paper disk. The location of those swipes are shown in Figure 1. The disks were then placed in 7 ml vials and shipped to Dade Moeller's certified laboratory. The results appear in Table 1.

Figure 1

Map showing locations of removable contamination swipes for TES
(Serial Number 345261).
(Numbered circles are locations of removable contamination swipes).

The TES was verified removed upon arrival at location



1- 5 on floor

Performed by: D. Morris
Date obtained: 7/1/2008

Removable Contamination Monitoring for TES (Serial Number 345261)
(100 cm² swipe samples).

Swipe No.	Description, Location	Results ¹ (dpm/100 cm ²)
1	Floor outside door	-3
2	Floor outside door	-4
3	Floor under TES	-2
4	Floor – 10 ft outside door	0.0
5	Floor – 7 ft inside door	11
6	Upper shelf of Baby food	-4
7	Top of cooler	0.0
8	Left of TES	3
9	Right of TES	5
10	Wall below TES	3
11	Field blank	-1
12	Background taken in receiving area	-1
13	Inside shipment box	3
14	Outside shipment box	4

¹ Net results; average background = 17 dpm H-3. MDA=23 dpm.

The results do not reveal any areas with significantly elevated levels of removable contamination. Because the area is safe for unrestricted use, the CHP concluded that no additional action is necessary.

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 transferred the damaged TES to a specific licensee authorized to receive the damaged TES on June 13, 2008. Wal-Mart sent a report of that transfer to the NRC on July 10, 2008.