



## Environmental Services

Rich Dailey, Sr. Director

Radiation Safety Officer

1300 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 0605  
Bentonville, AR 72716-0605  
Phone 479.204.9914  
Rich.Dailey@wal-mart.com  
www.walmart.com

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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 Director Miller:

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 31.5(a), Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") is a general licensee of the 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 its store #5048, located in New Hudson, Michigan.

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>
290838	20.0	After 03/2008 (est.)	30729 Lyon Center Dr. E., New Hudson, MI

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.

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

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## Attachment A

### A. Description of Events

On July 14, 2008, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") representatives and its contractor, Shaw Group, Inc. ("Shaw"), visited Wal-Mart store #5048 in New Hudson, Michigan to inventory tritium exit signs ("TES"). Wal-Mart has retained Shaw, an environmental services contractor with extensive experience in the management of radioactive material, for its company-wide program to inventory TES. During the inventory at the New Hudson store, Shaw discovered one damaged TES with a cracked frame and tritium-containing tubes that did not glow. The TES was installed in the tier and lube area of the store.

### B. Actions Taken

Interviews with the store managers and associates provided little information as to exactly when or how the TES was damaged, though the TES was not reported as damaged during a TES inventory in March 2008. The Wal-Mart Radiation Safety Officer ("RSO") directed Wal-Mart representatives and a Certified Health Physicist ("CHP") from Dade Moeller & Associates ("Dade Moeller") to visit the New Hudson store to conduct radiological surveys 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.

Wal-Mart representatives and a CHP visited the New Hudson store on July 30, 2008. They interviewed store managers and associates, and the CHP removed and packaged the TES for transfer according to a protocol established by Isolite, a specific licensee authorized to receive TES for disposal. The CHP also conducted swipe surveys of the areas deemed likely to have become contaminated by wiping a 100 cm<sup>2</sup> area (approximately 4 X 4 inches) with a paper disk. Wal-Mart anticipates providing the NRC with a supplemental report by August 29, 2008.

### 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 July 30, 2008. Wal-Mart will send the NRC a report of that transfer within 30 days of the transfer date.