

"Saving People Money So They Can Live Better"



# Environmental Services

Rich Dailey, Sr. Director

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October 17, 2008

Dr. Charles Miller, Director  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Two 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") because it possesses and uses byproduct material in the form of tritium exit signs ("TES") regulated by the NRC, in the State of Missouri. Consistent with 10 CFR § 31.5(c)(5), Wal-Mart is providing the subject report regarding one damaged TES that it discovered at store #89, located in Camdenton, Missouri.

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>
305556	11.5	unknown	94 Cecil St., Camdenton, MO

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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*2008/10/21*

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## Attachment A

### A. Description of Events

On September 17, 2008, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") representatives and its contractor, Shaw Group, Inc. ("Shaw"), visited Wal-Mart store #89 in Camdenton, Missouri 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 Camdenton store, Shaw discovered one damaged TES with a cracked frame, cracked face plate, and broken tritium-containing tubes. The TES was installed in the main area of the store.

### B. Actions Taken

Interviews with the store managers and associates provided no information as to how or when the TES was damaged. 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 Camdenton 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.

Wal-Mart representatives and a CHP visited the Camdenton store on October 8, 2008. They interviewed store managers and associates, and the CHP 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. The CHP also removed and packaged the TES for transfer according to a protocol established by Isolite, a specific licensee authorized to receive TES for disposal. Wal-Mart anticipates providing the NRC with a supplemental report by November 7, 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 damaged TES on October 8, 2008. Wal-Mart will send the NRC a report of that transfer within 30 days after the date of the transfer.