

"Saving People Money So They Can Live Better"



Environmental Services

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October 15, 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 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, in the State of Michigan. 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 #1423, located in St. Johns, 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>
335158	11.5	unknown	1165 Superior Dr., St. Johns, 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

FJME-60E10 - SOURCE REVIEW COMPLETE

"PUBLICLY AVAILABLE"

2008/10/21

FJME 10

Attachment A

A. Description of Events

On September 9, 2008, a Certified Health Physicist (“CHP”) from Dade Moeller & Associates (“Dade Moeller”) visited store #1423 in St. Johns, Michigan. Dade Moeller is a contractor retained by Wal-Mart with the responsibility to assess the radiological impacts of damaged TES. During the visit at the St. Johns store, the CHP discovered one damaged TES with broken tritium-containing tubes. The TES was installed in the non-public receiving area of the store.

B. Actions Taken

Interviews with the store managers and associates did not provide any information as to when or how the TES located in the receiving area was damaged. The CHP removed and packaged the TES for transfer according to protocols established by Isolite, a specific licensee authorized to receive TES for disposal. After removing the TES, the CHP cleaned the mounting location and 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 disks were then placed in 7 ml vials and shipped to Dade Moeller’s certified laboratory. The results appear in Table 1.

Table 1. Removable Contamination Surveys

Description, Location	Results (dpm/100 cm ²)
Wall, behind TES mounting location before cleaning	24000
Wall, left of TES mounting location after cleaning	13
Wall, right of TES mounting location after cleaning	15
Wall, under TES mounting location after cleaning	60
Wall, behind TES mounting location after cleaning	90
Floor, directly below TES mounting location before cleaning	1100
Floor, left of TES mounting location after cleaning	19
Floor, right of TES mounting location after cleaning	3
Floor, directly below TES mounting location after cleaning	11
Field blank	9
TES Package	17
TES Package	11

After cleaning, 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 damaged TES on September 9, 2008. Wal-Mart sent the NRC a report of that transfer on October 9, 2008.