



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
*Federal Prison Camp*

4464 Ralston Drive

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Duluth, MN 55814

December 8, 2014

U.S. NRC Region III  
Attn: Aaron McCraw  
Chief Material Inspection Branch  
2443 Warrenville Road  
Suite 210  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

**RE: Report Loss or Missing Tritium Exit Signs**

Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Duluth is reporting the lost or missing tritium exit signs from the institution located in Duluth, Minnesota. FPC Duluth purchased the tritium exit signs on two separate occasions: once in 2006, and again in 2009. The total number of exit signs purchased was 59; approximately 26 starting with serial number 3094, and 32 starting with serial number C6013, and one with an unidentified serial number. One set of the exit signs with the serial number starting 3094-- contain 11.47 curies of tritium; the other set of the exit signs with the serial number starting C6013-- contain 20.0 curies of tritium. The exit signs were used in the housing units and other buildings around the institution.

The loss of the tritium exit signs could have been from a variety of possibilities. One possibility is the signs may have been removed looking for items not authorized in the institution. The second possibility is inmates may have thought the signs inoperable when they tested them and removed the signs. The third possibility is the sign fell off the wall, and it was disposed of without proper notifications being made. All possibilities have the same conclusion - the signs were removed by an unqualified person and disposed due to lack of knowledge.

FPC Duluth has no reportable known exposures to individuals.

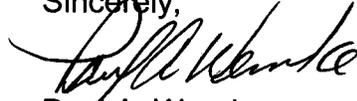
FPC Duluth has thoroughly searched all 34 buildings on the institution grounds, searching all offices, storage rooms, file rooms, mop closets, and common areas. The search was conducted several times over a 4- to 6-week period. FPC Duluth Facilities Staff will continue to monitor areas while performing work to see if any additional signs are located.

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The tritium exit signs at FPC Duluth were removed from the institution grounds and are presently located in the Electrical Supervisor's office. FPC Duluth is in the process of locating a certified vendor to properly dispose of the signs. Once a vendor is located, the signs will be sent off for disposal. FPC Duluth will keep all required information for our records in compliance with NRC regulations.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (218) 249-7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Wernke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul A. Wernke  
Facilities Manager