

December 16, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-055

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Sovereign Consulting, Inc.	Notification of Unusual Event
Sovereign Consulting, Inc.	Alert
111A North Gold Drive	Site Area Emergency
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691	General Emergency
Dockets: 99990001 License No: General	X Not Applicable

Rowe International
 Rowe International
 Troy Hills Road
 Whippany, New Jersey
 Dockets: 99990001 License No: General

Subject: BROKEN SELF-LUMINOUS EXIT SIGN IN ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

On December 16, 1999, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a representative of Sovereign Consulting, Inc. (Sovereign) reported that they were in possession of a broken self-luminous EXIT sign containing tritium at their office in Robbinsville, New Jersey. The EXIT sign was taken from the Rowe International (Rowe) facility in Whippany, New Jersey, where Sovereign is overseeing the demolition of several buildings. Other EXIT signs that are intact remain in Whippany. The Sovereign representative stated that the broken EXIT sign is cracked in the middle, and at least one of the inner tubes is broken. There was no label on the broken EXIT sign, but the Sovereign representative has asked employees at the Rowe site to obtain any label information from the intact signs. The representative was uncertain if the sign was already broken when it was found, or if the sign was broken during demolition activities.

An inspector from the Region I Office was dispatched at approximately 12:30 p.m. on December 16 to the Sovereign office in Robbinsville to perform wipe surveys for removable contamination of the area where the sign was stored, and other areas as necessary. The Whippany site will also be inspected by Region I in the near future.

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This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., December 16, 1999.

The State of New Jersey has been informed of the event. Region I is prepared to respond to inquiries by the media.

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