

December 27, 1999

Raymond W. Williams
Radiation Safety Officer
Archimica (Missouri) Inc.
P.O. Box 1246
Springfield, MO 65801

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF LOST SELF-LUMINESCENT EXIT SIGNS CONTAINING
HYDROGEN-3**

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your letter dated November 1, 1999, notifying NRC Region III of two missing self-luminescent exit signs. Each device, Model No. T-4001, was manufactured by NRD, Inc., and contained about 7.4 curies (274 gigabecquerel) of Hydrogen-3 in October 1999. The exit signs had an original activity of 13 curies (481.5 gigabecquerel) at the time of manufacture in 1989.

In your letter you indicated that in October 1989, Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. purchased 10 self luminescent exit signs manufactured by NRD, Inc. and distributed by Pentico, Inc. for use at that facility. On July 1, 1999, Archimica, Inc. purchased Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. As a result of an inventory conducted October 5-7, 1999, two of the 10 exit signs purchased in 1989 have not been located and you concluded that the units were probably disposed of to a sanitary landfill. We have reviewed your corrective actions to prevent recurrence and have no questions at this time. However, it is our understanding that informal searches will be ongoing in the event the exit signs were overlooked during the original inventory process.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, will be placed in the NRC public document room.

R. Williams

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ G.Wright

Geoffrey C. Wright, Chief
Materials Inspection Branch

Docket No. 9999003
General License 10 CFR 31

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