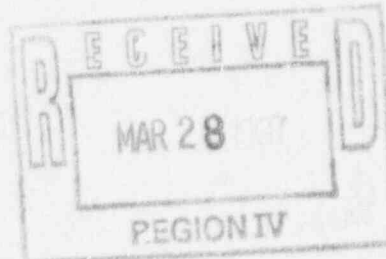




DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MEDICAL OPERATIONS AGENCY
BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS



24 Mar 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR USNRC, Region IV
ATTENTION: Ms. Linda McLean

FROM: HQ AFMOA/SGOR
8901 18th St
Brooks AFB TX 78235-5217

SUBJECT: Response to USNRC Incident Report No. 31741

The report for subject incident is attached. It is believed the sign was missing since January 1996 and the inventories conducted since then were not conducted carefully enough. Therefore, no actions to recover the sign have been implemented.


This item is generally licensed under 10 CFR Part 31.5. Information on the owning organization follows:

Organization and Address: 355 CES/CE-2
4175 S Alamo Ave, Suite 99
Davis-Monthan AFB AZ 85707-4405

Point-of-Contact: Lt Col Benjamin Anderson
(520) 228-3401

USAF Permit No. AZ-30488-00/00AFP and Docket No. 030-90353

All correspondence may go directly to the owning organization with courtesy copies sent to our office. If you need further assistance from our office, contact Maj Paul Feeser at (210) 536-3331. Telefax: (210) 536-4382. E-Mail: feeser_p@msa01.brooks.af.mil.


JOSEPH J. DONNELLY, Lt Col, USAF, BSC
Chief, USAF Radioisotope Committee Secretariat
Office of the Surgeon General

Attachments:
355 CES/CE Memo, 24 Mar 1997

CC:
355 AMDS/SGPB w/o Atch
355 CES/CE w/o Atch

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**355TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA**MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AFMOA/SGOR**

8901 18th Street

Brooks AFB TX 78235-5217

FROM: 355 CES/CE**SUBJECT: USAF Radioactive Material Permit No. 02-30488-1AFP, Docket No. 030-90353 for Exit Signs****1. References:**

- a. 355 CES/CE Memorandum, 3 Mar 97, same subject
- b. HQ AFMOA/SGOR Memorandum, 7 Mar 97, same subject.

2. We appreciate your concern over the continual loss of radioactive "EXIT" signs and the most recent one due to a self-help project at facility 1541 (lost sign SRB Safety 10 1988 20 Curries). A program has been initiated with a goal to remove all "EXIT" signs containing tritium gas, mentioned in reference b, from Davis-Monthan AFB by the end of this calendar year (1997). The 355th Civil Engineer Fire Inspection section conducted a preliminary survey this past week of facilities equipped with radioactive (tritium) "EXIT" signs. Based on this initial survey, the following replacement actions will be initiated.

a. There are 200 to 225 exit signs that need to be replaced with electric signs with a battery backup. The estimated cost for this project is \$45,000 and funding will be requested from Headquarters Air Combat Command (ACC).

b. There are 175 to 185 exit signs that can be replaced with glow-in-the dark or luminous-type signs at an estimated cost of \$5,000; local base funding will be used for this project.

c. Approximately 15 exit signs are not needed and will be removed and disposed of in the next 30 days.

3. A complete detailed survey with replacement and disposal recommendations for all remaining tritium gas "EXIT" signs will be completed in 30 days. When this survey is complete we will forward our final replacement and disposal plan.

4. Listed below are management actions that have been taken to control the loss of the radioactive exit signs:

a. All contractors performing work on Davis-Monthan are being briefed on proper handling and control of radioactive materials encountered during contract work. See attachment 1 for example of handout.

b. Annual training is being conducted for all base contract inspectors on contractor requirements concerning radioactive materials on base. See attachment 2 for documentation of last year's training.

c. Due to the loss of signs during self-help projects, we have distributed listings with the cover page in attachment 3 to facility managers.

d. Labels were also placed on the tritium exit signs during the January 1997 survey. These labels "Warning: Contact Bio Engineering X5639 or 355 CES/CEOI x3815 to properly dispose of this sign."

e. We have included in our base instruction 40-201, "Management of Base Radiation Program," dated 31 Mar 96, procedures for the contractor in handling radioactive materials and also a clause in contract specifications to ensure proper handling of radioactive materials by the contractors.

5. A follow-up letter will be sent in 30 days, after the completion of the detailed survey. If you have any questions, please contact me at DSN 228-3401.



MICHAEL R. TORIELLO, GM-14
Deputy Base Civil Engineer

Attachments:

1. Bio Engineering Briefing for Contract Work
2. Inspector's Training Record
3. Letter to Facility Managers, 4 Sep 96

cy to: 355 AMDS/SGPB

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING BRIEFING FOR CONTRACT WORK ON DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The base hospital responds to medical emergencies on base. For contractor personnel needing emergency treatment, service will be provided, but it is limited to stabilization of the injured. The contractor must provide for ongoing treatment at an off base facility.

Services provided by the base hospital must be reimbursed by the contractor.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The contractor is responsible for OSHA compliance at the job site.

Sometimes the contractor's activities may pose a health risk to Air Force personnel in the area. A common example is painting in the portion of a building when the potentially harmful vapors may drift into other occupied parts of the building. If such an exposure occurs to Air Force personnel, the Bioenvironmental Engineering (BioEng) office will work through the contract inspector to help resolve the problem.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

No radioactive material may be brought on base unless approved through the contract inspector by BioEng. Basic requirements normally include a copy of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency's permit, area of the base where it is used, and a timeframe for when will be brought on the base. Also, the contractor needs to notify us of any other sources of radiation (i.e., lasers, rf units, x-ray units) prior to use on base.

For building renovation and demolition projects, there are several radioluminescent exit signs in the buildings on base. A listing of the signs in a particular building can be obtained through the BioEng office. These signs are covered under a radioisotope permit and must be turned in to 355 CES/CEO for proper disposal. Strict control over sign disposition is essential.

Also, radioluminescent exit signs can no longer be installed unless approval has been obtained through the BioEng office.

CONFINED SPACE

Unless contract specifically states otherwise, the base Fire Department, Safety and BioEng are responsible for initially classifying a confined space as permitted or not permitted. If confined space is permitted, the base is required to brief the contractor on the hazards. DO NOT ENTER a confined space on this base unless the classification has been done.

ASBESTOS/LEAD BASED PAINT

If while working on a project where a material, that potentially contains asbestos and/or lead based paint, must be disturbed and asbestos abatement was not in the contract scope of work; DO NOT DISTURB the material. Immediately notify the contract inspector to verify content of the material.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Contractor must provide the BioEng office with a chemical inventory and material safety data sheets for all chemicals brought on base so that the BioEng can advise our base personnel of potential hazards. Likewise, if contractor is concerned about a chemical that base personnel are using in the vicinity of the contractor's work area, BioEng can provide similar information.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Air Force is a leader in protection of the environment. If contractor activities degrade the base's environment or result in pollutants being improperly discharged from the base, then the BioEng office (and others) will ask the contract inspector to have those activities changed or stopped until an environmentally acceptable procedure can be worked out. Improper discharges can include dumping materials down the sanitary sewer or storm drains, improper hazardous material, hazardous waste or asbestos disposal, leaving chemical containers open when not in use, etc.

EMERGENCY SERVICE ELEMENT: 228-2828

Ambulance Dispatch: 228-3233

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (Bldg 4220): (520) 228-3423

FAX (520) 228-4337

To: 355 AMDS/SGPB

1. The following personnel reviewed the contract inspectors briefing for contract work on Davis Monthan AFB.

Name	Date
1 Bradley E. Scott, 1lt	14 Jun 96
2 GITE DAVE MSGT	17 JUN 96
3 Kari Mortenson SMSGT	17 JUN 96
4 KIMBERLY M. BURZ SSGT	17 JUN 96
5 CARL E BRITT JR. SSGT	17 JUN 96
6 JOHN METTLER	18 JUN 96
7 ERIC HACKETT	18 JUN 96
8 GARY HAUSFORD	6-19-96
9 FRANK L. Yeager	
10 Frank Letta	19 June 96
11 Edward Apriano	20 JUN 96
12 Ann Caldwell	20 JUNE 96
13 RS Puertt	20 Jun 96
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
355TH AEROSPACE MEDICINE SQUADRON (ACC)
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA

Thank

S. Ann

14 Jun 96

also new Dennis I

Sgt J. J. Kowalski

11 Jun 96 to sign

MEMORANDUM FOR 355 CES/CECC

FROM: 355 AMDS/SGPB

SUBJECT: Contract Inspector Briefing

1. Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight is required to provide a briefing to contract inspectors for contract work on base. Due to the loss of several radioluminescent exit signs, and violations of asbestos and confined space requirements, the attached briefing is provided to inform the inspectors of these and other areas to help avoid future mishaps.
2. Please have your personnel review and sign the attached list, then return the list to Capt Boerma or me at 355 AMDS/SGPB
3. Please direct questions regarding this matter to me at ext. 5369.

Ronald L. Ravago
RONALD L. RAVAGO, TSgt, USAF
NCOIC, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight

Attachments:

Contract Inspectors Briefing

Global Power For America

**BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING BRIEFING
FOR CONTRACT INSPECTOR FOR CONTRACT WORK
ON DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The base hospital responds to medical emergencies on base. For contractor personnel needing emergency treatment, service will be provided, but it is limited to stabilization of the injured. The contractor must provide for ongoing treatment at an off base facility.

Any service provided by base hospital must be reimbursed.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The contractor is responsible for OSHA compliance at the job site.

The contractor's activities may pose a health risk to Air Force personnel in the area. A common example is painting in the portion of a building when the potentially harmful vapors may drift into other occupied parts of the building. If such an exposure occurs to Air Force personnel, the Bioenvironmental Engineering (BioEng) office will work through your office to help resolve the problem.

Also note, if contractor feels that their personnel are being overexposed by Air Force operations, BioEng can be contacted to help resolve the problem.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

No radioactive material may be brought on base by the contractors unless approved through the contract inspector by BioEng. Basic requirements normally include a copy of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency's permit, area of the base where it is used, and a timeframe for when will be brought on the base. Also, the contractor needs to notify us of any other sources of radiation (i.e., lasers, rf units, x-ray units) prior to use on base.

For building renovation and demolition projects, there are several radioluminescent exit signs in the buildings on base. A listing of the signs in a particular building has been sent to your office. All inspectors need to be aware of this list. These signs are covered under a radioisotope permit and must be turned in to 355 CES/CEO for proper disposal. Strict control over sign disposition is essential.

Also, radioluminescent exit signs can no longer be installed unless approval has been obtained through the BioEng office.

CONFINED SPACE

Unless contract specifically states otherwise, the base Fire Department, Safety and BioEng are responsible for initially classifying a confined space as permitted or not permitted. If confined space is permitted, the base is required to brief the contractor on the hazards. DO NOT ENTER a confined space on this base unless the classification has been done. Examples of confined spaces are manholes (both sewer and communications), vaults, and fuel tanks.

ASBESTOS/LEAD BASED PAINTS

If while working on a project where a material, that potentially contains asbestos and/or lead based paint, must be disturbed and asbestos/lead based paint abatement was not in the contract scope of work, DO NOT DISTURB the material until further testing. Also note, asbestos waste needs to be disposed of properly. Lead based paint contaminated materials may be hazardous waste. Testing needs to be done before disposal.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

The contractor must provide the BioEng office with a chemical inventory and material safety data sheets for all chemicals brought on base so that the BioEng can advise our base personnel of potential hazards. Likewise, if the contractor is concerned about a chemical that base personnel are using in the vicinity of the contractor's work area, BioEng can provide similar information.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Air Force is a leader in protection of the environment. If the contractor's activities degrade the base's environment or result in pollutants being improperly discharged from the base, then the contract inspector needs to have those activities changed or stopped until an environmentally acceptable procedure can be worked out. Improper discharges can include dumping materials down the sanitary sewer or storm drains, improper hazardous material, hazardous waste or asbestos disposal, leaving chemical containers open when not in use, etc.

EMERGENCY SERVICE ELEMENT: 228-2828

Ambulance Dispatch: 228-3233

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FAX (520) 228-4337



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

355TH AEROSPACE MEDICINE SQUADRON (ACC)
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA

4 Sept 96

MEMORANDUM FOR BUILDING MANAGERS

FROM: 355 AMDS/SGPB

SUBJECT: Tritium Exit Signs

1. Due to the loss of several tritium exit signs, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF) is notifying building managers of the strict accountability of these signs to avoid future losses.
2. These signs are regulated by the Air Force and must be physically accounted for every six months and should not be removed/replaced by anyone prior to notifying BEF. The Attachment lists the exit signs in your building. Please contact our office at ext. 8-5369 if there are any discrepancies.
3. Please direct questions regarding this matter to SSgt Adcox or me at the above extension.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kevin L. Boerma", is positioned above the typed name.

KEVIN L. BOERMA, Capt, USAF, BSC
Commander, Bioenvironmental Engineering FlightAttachment:
Tritium Exit Sign Inventory*Global Power For America*