

# SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc.

August 10, 2021 - Issue 35

# Company Background

- SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc. (SRBT) has been in operation since 1990 and is located at 320 Boundary Road in Pembroke.
- Our company is locally owned and currently employs 41 hard working local residents.
- SRBT has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to renew its Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility Operating Licence for a period of fifteen (15) years. SRBT's current operating licence expires on June 30, 2022. (A copy of our application can also be found on our website at www.srbt.com by clicking the red "Public Notifications" tab).
- We are totally committed to protecting the local environment, our employees, the public and to meeting the safety requirements of the CNSC. We will continue to be transparent, visible and open with our community and regularly provide information to the public.

# **Description of Manufacturing Processes**

- All products manufactured and designed by SRBT use Betalights™ which are sealed glass capsules internally coated with a phosphorescent powder and filled with a radioactive gas called tritium to produce continuous light.
- Our products are manufactured to strict procedures audited on a regular basis by a number of independent third parties.
- Our company is ISO 9001 registered, ensuring all processes are performed in an organized, controlled and repeatable manner.
- Any radioactive waste generated from the facility is disposed to a CNSC licensed waste facility or by other means with the approval of the CNSC.
- During the manufacturing process small quantities of tritium are released into the environment through our two exhaust stacks.
- Tritium is our single largest cost and precautions are taken during manufacturing to ensure emissions to the environment are minimized.
- Tritium released per week has dropped significantly from 23,546 GBq/ week in 2005 to 484 GBq/week in 2020, a decrease of just under 98%.

# **Outline of Company Products**

- · Our products are maintenance free and work without batteries and electricity and are widely used in areas where power is not readily available. Our signs are used to illuminate the way in various commercial buildings, mines and sewer systems. SRBT also manufactures many illuminated products for the Canadian, American and British military. Our products are also installed in a number of aircraft to illuminate escape doors and routes.
- The energy emitted from tritium does not penetrate the Betalights<sup>™</sup>, so there is no external radiation hazard from our products.
- $^{\bullet}$  The Betalights  $^{\text{TM}}$  within each device and the devices themselves are thoroughly tested to minimize the possibility of breakage.
- In the unlikely event that an exit sign containing 20 curies of tritium is broken, the dose to an individual is expected to be less than the annual public dose limit set by the CNSC of 1.0 millisieverts (mSv) and would depend on the amount of tritium left in the device and the size and ventilation of the room where the device is broken.









Specialty Exit Signs

Aircraft Signs

Landmine Route Markers

Flight Refueling Markers

# **Tritium**

- Tritium is a colorless and odorless radioactive isotope of hydrogen.
- Tritium is a relatively weak source of beta radiation and is produced naturally and also produced as a by-product of electrical generating stations. Tritium is also used in studies investigating the safety of potential new drugs.1
- Tritium enters the body when people swallow tritiated water, and may also enter the body when people inhale tritium as a gas in the air, and absorb it through their skin.1
- Once tritium enters the body, it disperses quickly and is uniformly distributed throughout the body. Tritium is excreted through the urine within a month or so after ingestion.1

#### Effects on the Environment and the Public

- Based on monitoring results, at MAXIMUM, the dose to a child or adult due to SRBT would be just over 0.0024 mSv/year, much less than 1% of the public dose limit of 1.0 mSv/year. This assumes this child or adult resides very close to SRBT, breathing air due to the emissions from SRBT, drinking well water or formula mixed with well water and assuming 100% of their produce and dairy consumption is from local sources.
- Below 50 to 100 mSv, which includes occupational and environmental exposures, risks of health effects are either too small to be observed or nonexistent. 2
- The International Commission of Radiological Protection (ICRP) have attempted to determine the probability of fatal and non-fatal cancers, and hereditary effects from any dose of radiation. The probability in total is 0.000073 per mSv.3 Therefore one out of approximately 5.7 million people could possibly develop these effects if every individual received a dose of 0.0024 mSv.
- •SRBT's decommissioning is fully funded at 100%. As required by the CNSC a financial guarantee exceeding \$727,327.00, entirely funded by SRBT is in place in a secure escrow account should the facility ever need to be decommissioned in the future.

## Groundwater

- SRBT's groundwater study includes monitoring data from 57 wells drilled to various depths and 31 wells are located within 150 meters of our facility.
- The contamination of groundwater is at a level that does not pose a risk to any member of the public.
- The decrease in emissions together with natural decay will reduce tritium concentrations in groundwater over time.
- In 2020, tritium concentrations in wells used for some drinking water ranged from 4 Bq/L to 938 Bq/L, which is less than 14% of the Ontario Drinking Water Guideline of 7,000 Bq/L.

## **Monitoring**

WHAT IS MONITORED CURRENTLY		<b>FREQUENCY</b>
Facility stack emissions		Continuous
40 air monitoring stations		Every Month
8 precipitation monitors		Every Month
Muskrat River		Every Month
29 monitoring wells		Every 3 Months
7 residential and business wells		Every 6 Months
Local milk		Every 6 Months
Sludge samples		Every 6 Months
Locally grown produce		Once a year
6 facility downspouts		Random

NOTE: All results are communicated to the CNSC and available in our Annual Compliance Reports which are posted on our website.

# **Public Dose in Perspective**

mSv		
100.00	H	994 out of 1000 individuals exposed to 100 mSv would not develop cancer.4 Risk of disease or death is increased by 10% among those who receive 100 mSv.5 (H on Graph)
7.00	G	Brain Scan.6 (G on Graph)
1.80	F	On average, public radiation exposure in Canada due to all natural sources.7 (F on Graph)
1.00	Ε	CNSC annual public dose limit. (E on Graph)
0.50	D	Abdomen x-ray.6 (D on Graph)
0.43	С	The highest dose to an SRBT employee (in 2020). (C on Graph)
0.077	В	The average dose to SRBT employees (in 2020). (B on Graph)
0.0024	A	Maximum annual dose to the public due to SRBT (in 2020). (A on Graph)

# **Reference Documentation**

- UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, TRITIUM, http://www.epa.gov
  HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, Radiation Risk in Perspective, Richard J. Burke Jr., Executive Secretary Health Physics Society, http://www.hps.org
  ICRP PUBLICATION 60, 1990 Recommendations of the International Commission of Radiological Protection, PERGAMON PRESS
  HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, Answer to Question #4703 Submitted to "Ask the Experts", http://www.hps.org
  Risk of cancer following low doses of ionising radiation British Medical Journal, June 29, 2005, http://www.hmj.com.
  INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Radiation, People and the Environment, http://www.iaea.org
  http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/radiation/introduction-to-radiation/radiation-doses.cfm

A B C D E F

### **Support for Our Community**

SRBT and its staff continue to support the local community by providing support to various organizations and causes:

- Christmas Angels ProgramValley Animal Rescue
- Upper Valley Basketball Association
   Festival Hall
- Main Street Community Services
   Bernadette McCann House
- · Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County
- Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair
   Robbie Dean Family Counseling Centre
- Alice and Fraser Horse Association
- Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley

For further information on tritium and radiation hazards, please visit the third party sites listed below:

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission: https://www.cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca
- United States Environmental Protection Agency: https://www.epa.gov
   International Atomic Energy Agency: https://www.iaea.org
- International Commission on Radiological Protection: http://www.icrp.org Health Physics Society: http://hps.org
- · International Agency for Research on Cancer: https://www.iarc.fr

For more information or if you are interested in a plant tour, please contact: Stephane Levesque, Presiden

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For further information please visit: http://www.srbt.com

Or follow our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Reddit & TikTok accounts.

### **Radiation measurements**

are often represented in various units and can cause confusion:

#### PRESCRIBED LIMIT TO PUBLIC = 1 mSv

1 mSv = 0.001 Sievert

1 mSv = 1,000 microSievert ( $\mu$ Sv)

1 mSv = 1,000,000 nanoSievert (nSv)

1 mSv = 1,000,000,000 picoSievert (pSv)

#### ONTARIO DRINKING WATER GUIDELINE = 7,000 Bq/Litre

7,000 Bq/L = 7 Bq / millilitre

7,000 Bq/L = 7,000,000 milliBecquerels (mBq)/Litre 7,000 Bq/L = 7, 000,000,000 microbecquerels ( $\mu$ Bq)/Litre

7,000 Bq/L = 0.000000189 Ci / Litre

### RADIOACTIVITY IN KNOWN MATERIALS 5

1 kg of coffee = 1,000 Bq

1 household smoke detector = 30,000 Bq

1 kg of coal ash = 2,000 Bq

1 kg of granite = 1,000 Bq

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 A proud member of -We also manufacture





SRBT, Part of Your Community