

April 25, 2012

Mr. Troy Hedger, CEO
Alpha-Omega Services, Inc.
9156 Rose Street
P.O. Box 789
Bellflower, CA 90706

SUBJECT: INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED AS PART OF YOUR PLANNED
EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE MODEL NO. 5979 PACKAGE

Dear Mr. Hedger:

On April 11, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with both your staff and Elekta staff to be apprised of a planned request for extension of the Model No. 5979 package, after June 30, 2012. During that meeting, staff learned that (i) the completion of the fabrication of the Model No. AOS-100 package is now scheduled for the September timeframe instead of May/June 2012, (ii) the fabrication of the Elekta loading machine was not initiated until issuance of the Certificate of Compliance for the Model No. AOS-100 package, and (iii) "life-saving" procedures may be delayed if the Model No. 5979 package cannot be used after June 30, 2012.

This letter is to advise you that we need the information identified in the enclosure to this letter as part of your planned request for extension for the Model No. 5979 package. We request that you provide this information before May 1, 2012.

Please reference Docket Nos. 71-9316, 71-5959, and TAC No. LA0129 in future correspondence related to this request. The staff will be available to meet with you to discuss your responses. If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be contacted at (301) 492-3408.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pierre Saverot, Project Manager
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos. 71-9316, 71-5979
TAC No. LA0129

Enclosure: Additional Information Requested by NRC

Mr. Troy Hedger, CEO
Alpha-Omega Services, Inc.
9156 Rose Street
P.O. Box 789
Bellflower, CA 90706

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REQUEST FOR THE MODEL NO. 5979 PACKAGE

Dear Mr. Hedger:

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Docket Nos. 71-9316, 71-5979
TAC No. LA0129

Enclosure: Additional Information Requested by NRC
cc: Doug Weaver, Brooke Poole, Mike Waters

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ADAMS P8 Accession No. : ML12117A001

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DATE:	04/17/2012		04/17/2012		4/25/12			

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Information Requested by NRC as Part of
AOS Planned Extension Request for the Model No. 5979 Package

- RIS 2008-18 requests that the applicant address certain considerations for limited use of expired transportation packages beyond October 1, 2008. As part of the justification for extended use, the RIS requests a description of "any good-faith efforts to acquire replacement packages that meet the current package performance requirements, including a detailed description of past activities and the current status of acquiring replacement packages." As part of that description, please provide a detailed schedule of the Model No. AOS-100 package fabrication and delivery for use, and clarify the reason or reasons for neither identifying nor informing the NRC of the need of a new loading machine to be used in conjunction with the Model No. AOS-100 package. Clarify anticipated delays in the fabrication of both the Model No. AOS-100 package and of the loading machine. Where the schedule differs from those dates set forth in previous extension requests, please explain the good-faith efforts taken to minimize schedule delays. This explanation should also include a detailed description of the actions implemented and conducted by AOS in a "good faith effort" to secure transport authorizations using other available sources and packages (including foreign packages, when applicable).
- RIS 2008-18 requests that an applicant provide information supporting a plan and schedule to acquire replacement packages or complete necessary shipments. Please provide details regarding the actions that have been, and will be, taken by AOS to either institute or negotiate measures to acquire or use other packages, particularly once AOS learned that a loading machine would not be available and ready for use at the time of the completion of the fabrication of the Model No. AOS-100 package. This information should include key milestones, as applicable. In addition, please discuss your contingency plans if, for any reason, the loading machine is not ready for use in the United States by December 2012. In particular, please describe in detail other measures that would be either considered or proposed by AOS to complete shipments deemed to be "critical."
- In its application dated May 16, 2011, AOS requested, and the NRC approved, forty-two (42) shipments, to be completed by June 30, 2012. Of those approved shipments, approximately twenty-one (21) were made, or are expected to be made, through the authorized period ending June 30, 2012. Regarding the identification of shipments in the forthcoming extension request, RIS 2008-18 requests that the applicant include (a) the number of shipments; (b) the number of packages per shipment; (c) packaging serial numbers; (d) package contents; (e) end use of the radioactive material; (f) shipment origin and destination; (g) mode; (h) general time frame; and (i) the date the last shipment will be completed. In view of the fact that fewer shipments than anticipated were necessary under the prior extension, please include a detailed discussion of each of these factors, with the end goal of identifying with greater precision the number of actual shipments AOS anticipates will be needed. Similarly, please explain the mitigation measures to be implemented if, for any reason, the planned shipment dates from July 1 to December 30, 2012, cannot be met.

- At the April 11, 2012, public meeting, AOS stated that, after June 30, 2012, (1) in view of the expiration of the current extension, it is likely that gamma knife loading and unloading could be disrupted or stopped; and (2) the expiration could result in delays and/or suspension of life-saving procedures. (See AOS slide presentation at unnumbered slide 14). Consistent with RIS-2008-18, please explain further these potentially adverse impacts that may result if the requested shipments are not conducted. A full description of these impacts might include, but is not limited to, a discussion of particular facilities that might not, or would not, be expected to receive shipments between July 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012, and the specific impacts on those facilities, including consideration of the question whether the transport schedule can be adjusted so as to be conducted in accordance with NRC regulations. Please also address possible limitations for each site license regarding the possibility to use foreign sources transportable in certified packages.
- We have publicly stated that “[t]he limited authorization to use expired packages should be granted only as the last alternative for critical shipments when all other reasonable attempts have been made to secure a certified replacement package.” [Refer to Letter to Donald R. Krause, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, from Michael D. Waters, NRC (Jan. 20, 2012) (ADAMS Accession No. ML120230253)]. As part of your discussion of potential adverse impacts that may result if the shipments are not conducted, please address whether the shipments made before June 2012 were “critical” shipments, why all shipments were not conducted as initially planned during the authorization period, and whether shipments planned to be made through December 2012 pursuant to your forthcoming extension request are also anticipated to be “critical” shipments.
- RIS 2008-18 states that an extension request should include a safety justification for continued use and proposed compensatory measures. Please include in your request a description of compensatory measures considered or proposed by AOS to ensure an equivalent level of safety as other currently approved packages for this purpose.