

June 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Doug Weaver, Deputy Director
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation, NMSS

FROM: Pierre Saverot, Project Manager */RA/*
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 21, 2012, MEETING WITH GE-HITACHI and
J.L. SHEPHERD & ASSOCIATES REGARDING THE
CONTINUED USE OF THE MODEL NO. 1500 PACKAGE

Background

By letter dated December 5, 2011, GE-Hitachi (GEH) requested authorization for continued use of the Model No. 1500 package from January to December 2012. By letter dated January 20, 2012, staff wrote that any request for authorizing the extension of an expired package beyond June 30, 2012, will be considered as a separate application on a case by case basis and only for specific shipment needs. Staff also requested that GEH explain, in a public meeting, any specific shipment need and critical schedule, as well as the good faith efforts undertaken since 2004 to acquire a replacement package. The May 21, 2012, public meeting was set up to discuss GEH request on behalf of J. L. Shepherd & Associates (JLS).

Discussion

GEH explained that (i) JLS buys Co-60 sources, coming from Argentina, through REVISS, (ii) GEH encapsulates them, and (iii) JLS reconfigures them prior to distribution to its customers, including medical research facilities and the Department of Defense, e.g., the Defense Micro Electronics Agency.

GEH also explained that relicensing of the Model No. 1500 as a -96 package is not feasible, and that the Model No. 2000 package is the only Type B package that GEH is pursuing at this time.

GEH acknowledged that the new Model No. AOS-100 package had been designated as the replacement package for the Model No. 1500 package. However, JLS said that the Model No. AOS-100 package does not meet its needs, because of a 300 Watt limit related to ⁶⁰Co output, thus requiring multiple conveyances as compared to the Model No. 1500 package. JLS also said that the AOS package is available only for sale, and not for lease. GEH and JLS told staff that their extension request for the continued use of the Model No. 1500 expired package is for eight shipments to be completed before June 30, 2013, and that those shipments will be limited to ⁶⁰Co sources.

Staff commented that the sources to be shipped in the Model No. 1500 package were the same than those which were previously shipped in the 20WC package, thus limited to 100 Watts. JLS

indicated that there were over 100 shipments planned to be performed with the 20WC package this year, that either the Model No. 1500 or the Model No. AOS-100 package could be used all along, but that the new AOS package was cost-prohibitive. The Department of Transportation (DOT) staff reminded JLS that no application for a new package design had been submitted all these past years, and that DOT is not considering allowing the use of the 20WC package. JLS responded that it had experienced setbacks in the design of a new package, that an application is being prepared for a scheduled submittal to NRC on June 30, 2012, and that it was willing to work with DOT and NRC staff to be as responsive as possible. Responding to a question from staff on a potential fabrication at risk of the new JLS package, JLS said that this would not provide any real added benefit because manufacturing should take no longer than 180 days after issuance of the Certificate of Compliance.

JLS said that its goal was to maximize services to customers and that some devices will be difficult to decommission without the Model No. 1500 package. Staff responded that, even if this extension request is approved for one year, there will still be source recovery programs to be completed in the future while the 20 WC and the 1500 package will no longer be available. DOT staff also commented that past JLS' claims related to urgent shipment needs from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had not been substantiated by DHS.

A stakeholder from the Defense Microelectronics Field Agency indicated that their High Dose Irradiator Source will need to be reloaded within the next 6 to 9 months. Staff did not make any regulatory commitments at the meeting and said that the challenge for NRC will be to consider (i) safety implications, (ii) policy, and (iii) "good faith efforts" that have been made consistent with RIS 2008-18.

Docket No. 71-5939
TAC No. L24654

Enclosure 1: Meeting Attendees
Enclosure 2: Presentations

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**Meeting Between GE-HITACHI, J.L. SHEPHERD & ASSOCIATES, and the
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
May 21, 2012
Meeting Attendees**

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GE-HITACHI

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VIA THE BRIDGELINE

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Ted Schantz, DMEA
Carlos Martinez, GE
D. Shepherd, JLS