



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 8, 1996

PUBLIC

34-19089-01
030-16055

MEMORANDUM TO: John R. Madera, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, RIII

FROM: Josephine Piccone, Chief *Josephine M. Piccone*
Operations Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST - SHIPPING OF
COBALT-60 BY ADVANCED MEDICAL SYSTEMS

I am responding to your technical assistance request (TAR) dated September 20, 1996 (Attached), regarding plans by Advanced Medical Systems (AMS) to dispose of ⁶⁰Co sources. As indicated in the telephone conversation between yourself, Kevin Null, Mike Weber, and Sami Sherbini on September 26, 1996, we have reviewed the AMS procedures provided with the TAR and have no concerns regarding the submitted procedures.

We were concerned, however, that the procedures submitted by AMS did not include any radiation protection procedures, but were largely procedures dealing with shipping cask movements, liner loading, and other waste shipping items. Sami Sherbini of my staff telephoned Stephen Haddock, Radiation Safety Officer for AMS, to discuss this matter. Mr Haddock informed us that radiation protection during this project will be addressed in two ways: (1) general radiation safety will be undertaken in accordance with the procedures in AMS' safety procedures manual (which contains their radiation safety procedures), and (2) job specific aspects of the project will be addressed by means of radiation work permits. In other words, radiation safety for this project is to be conducted in a manner that falls within normal radiation safety practices at the site. We find this approach acceptable, especially since the highest expected exposure rate during waste handling by personnel is about 5 R/hr, which is well within the scope of activity that may be safely conducted in the manner proposed by AMS.

The project is expected to be under the supervision of both a Chem Nuclear manager and the AMS radiation safety officer. Chem Nuclear, a waste management contractor, will be responsible for the packaging and shipping aspects, and AMS will be responsible for radiation safety. In addition, AMS will have on site a radiological protection consultant to assist in any problems that may arise. You have also indicated that the Chem Nuclear manager and AMS' radiation safety officer both have extensive experience in their respective areas, waste disposal, shipping, and source handling and radiation safety.

Contact: Sami Sherbini, NMSS
(301) 415-7902

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We have no further concerns, and as indicated in our telephone conversation, we recommend that AMS be permitted to start the project without any further delays, and will consider your TAR closed.

Attachment: As stated

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REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

Date: September 20, 1996

Mail to: Don Cool (DAC), Mail Stop: 8F5 TWFN

E-Mail to: IMNSMAIL
If E-mail, cc: CLE, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

From: John R. Madera (JRM4), Region III *J.R. Madera*
Chief, Nuclear Materials Licensing Section

Licensee: AMS, Inc.
License No. 34-19089-01

- ☐ Control No.
- ☐ Letter dated:
- ☐ Suggested change in licensing procedure (enclosed):
- ☐ Problem/Issue: ENTER TEXT~
- ☐ Action Required:

In preparation of AMS' efforts to ship cobalt-60 sources and radioactive waste off-site, the licensee has submitted the contractors procedures (attached) for the project for NRC review. We request headquarters review and comments. In order that the project can be accomplished in a timely fashion, we ask that you provide your comments by September 30, 1996. We are also reviewing the procedures, and will incorporate any comments you have into a deficiency letter.

☐ Recommended Action (with revisions): ☐ Approve or ☐ Reject

Remarks:

Headquarters Reviewer: _____
Regional Reviewer: Kevin Null
Reviewer Code: R2
Reviewer Phone No.: (630)829-9854
Request Needed by: 9/30/96

FAX No.: (630) 515-1259
Form TAR-10 8/93

Cathy / Sami

cc: C. Pederson