

Subject: Possible change of BARGE chip vendors
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Date: 6/30/2001, 1:52 PM
To: barge_chips@oakleaf.com

You are receiving this message because you've ordered BARGE chips this year. The BARGE chip committee is facing a difficult decision, and we wanted to let you know what we are dealing with, and get your feedback.

At the start of our chip set development, we picked Paul-Son as the chip vendor. They did the 1998 and 1999 BARGE chip sets and have been reasonable to deal with in the past. However, this time around, they have been extremely difficult to work with. They have had our chip artwork for nearly two months and have repeatedly promised us proof sheets or sample chips to review, but have not delivered on their promises. Our phone calls and emails go unanswered.

We have been promised that we will have the chips in time for BARGE, but it is difficult to believe these promises in light of their track record on meeting their self-imposed deadlines for getting us review art.

We've looked at alternative vendors. Bud Jones seemed to be a likely candidate, but they have a new management policy to not sell casino-quality chips to non-casinos. We have also contacted Chipco. In the past, we have had quality issues with Chipco, but they have bent over backwards this time to try and win back our business.

We sent our artwork to Chipco on Thursday afternoon, June 28th. The next morning, we got a call asking where to send our proof sheets.

We have not yet cancelled our order with Paul-Son, but we are seriously thinking about switching vendors. Before doing so, we wanted to let you know and to solicit your advice and consent.

The change of vendor would not result in a major change to the chip designs. There would be no change in the cost to you. The biggest visible change would be at the edge of the chip. With a Chipco chip, there would be a thin white line at the edge of the chip. For reference, see:

http://www.oakleaf.com/poker/barge/Chip_Vendors.jpg

We would appreciate your timely input in this matter. We will have to make a decision next week, after the July 4th holiday. Please let us know what you think.

--Patrick Milligan
BARGE Chip Designer
BARGE Chip Committee Member