Licensing Support Network (LSN)

Project Action Plan (PAP)

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is developing the Licensing Support Network (LSN). The objective of the LSN is to reduce the time needed for the licensing hearing and give the agency the chance of meeting the congressionally-mandated three-year licensing process time frame. It is generally acknowledged that although the system does not guarantee the licensing time frame will be met, without the LSN it will not be possible to meet the mandated time frame. The system will achieve this time saving by:

- Replacing classic "discovery" exchanges among parties by making all parties' relevant documents publicly accessible before docketing;
- Establishing an electronic and publicly accessible docket; and
- making motions practice a fully electronic process.

The Motions Practice and the Electronic Docket, while key parts of the overall LSN, are outside the scope of this particular effort. The focus of this project is on the design, development, operation, and maintenance of a web portal capable of working with the other components that make up the complete LSN system. Despite the LSN's being composed of other components, when the term LSN is referred to in this document it will refer to only that portion that is the web portal. The LSN web portal effort is focused on two of the four LSN functional requirements:

- Establishing an effective Internet-based method of accessing (search and retrieval) the records collections of the parties and potential parties to the high-level waste repository licensing proceeding.
- Providing an audit/compliance subsystem, including the automated tools and policies and procedures needed to monitor participant compliance with the availability and document integrity submission requirements found in Section 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 2, Subpart J.

LSN participants include individuals from the NRC, Department of Energy (DOE), the State of Nevada, several counties in Nevada, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), other organizations and citizen groups, as well as the general public.

Each participant, including the NRC, must meet core requirements for making their documentary materials available on the web and for providing the computerization necessary to comply with Subpart J provisions for document production and service. These include requirements for providing web-accessible bibliographic headers (structured data) and searchable text (unstructured data) of documentary material and a description of where an authenticated image of the document may be obtained. Where text is not available (e.g., topographical maps, engineering drawings, etc.), the image will be made available online in lieu of the text file. Structured data bibliographic headers are required for items not suitable for image or text.

Similarly, structured data bibliographic headers are required for privileged, confidential, and other types of limited access documents.

This document presents the LSN Project Action Plan (PAP). The PAP describes the management and technical approach that the GRCI/AT&T Team, as the Prime Contractor, will follow in developing the LSN. The PAP defines the project's schedule, work breakdown structure (WBS), and performance monitoring methods used to evaluate progress during the life of the project. It describes the project organization, roles, and responsibilities of each organizational element. It defines the lines of communications between NRC's LSN organization and the GRCI/AT&T Team. It describes communications within GRCI/AT&T between the LSN Project Organization and GRCI/AT&T's upper level management. The plan also includes a discussion of quality assurance (QA), configuration management (CM), and the risk management approach that will be applied to the project by the Government's LSN Project Organization and GRCI/AT&T to ensure the project's overall success.

The PAP includes the Software Development Plan, which is based on an iterative package development methodology. Following a rapid application development approach, successively expanded capabilities will be used to increase the capabilities of the system, both in terms of what it does and the data sources available.

1.1   Background

Section 114(d)(2) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA) requires the Commission to issue a final decision approving or disapproving issuance of the construction authorization for a mined geologic repository to store high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada within three years of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) license application. The LSN is a critical tool to ensure that document access, and associated hearing agenda, can all be handled in an expeditious manner. As outlined in 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J (the Rule), it will establish a system to provide shared document discovery and facilitate electronic motions practice for the hearings on DOE's license application for the repository.

1.2   Objectives

The objective of implementing the Licensing Support Network (LSN) is to reduce the time needed for the licensing hearing and give the NRC some chance of meeting the congressionally-mandated three-year licensing process time frame.

The LSN Web Portal is the primary search tool for retrieval and dissemination of the electronic documents concerning the Yucca Mountain Project and will be used by participants in the licensing activity as well as the general public. The portal will comply with Section 508 Guidelines.

The core Internet functions that will be provided by the LSN web portal are:

- Provides shared access to documentary material;
- Provides timely and effective access, search, and retrieval for large collections of diverse documents;
- Identifies where associated images are easily located, if not available on the system;
- Provides a unique document identifier across the enterprise;
- Provides priority access (to approximately 500 users) during key phases of the licensing process;
- Delivers documents into the NRC docket file;
- Assures integrity of exchanged documents (NRC EIE);
- Provides an electronic hearing docket (ADAMS);
- Allows the LSN Administrator (LSNA) to document integrity of the participant collections; and
- Ensures uninterrupted performance over at least a three-year licensing time frame.

The LSN web portal is not a central repository; rather, it is the central source for information discovery for the high-level waste repository hearing. Documents are not copied over to, or stored on, the LSN from participant sites. The LSN will instead store pointers or links to where the actual documents are on an individual participant's web server. When a user finds the document he or she seeks and requests it, the document is served up from the participant's site to the requester.

1.3   Scope

The LSN is being developed for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensing Support Network Administrator (LSNA) and will be based on the Project Charter dated January 5, 2001. The LSN must be developed to comply with the provisions of 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J. The requirement for ensuring the integrity of exchanged documents and an electronic hearing docket will be provided by the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system and Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), respectively. Therefore, this project focuses on development of the portal site (e.g., website) and the search and retrieval capabilities. The various participants in the LSN must provide access to their document repositories in order for the LSN to provide the data and information necessary for the licensing process to succeed.

The primary constraint on the development plan is that the development date must be met to comply with the requirements of 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J. Adequate resources with which to accomplish each development task will be provided to the project. Progress toward task accomplishment will be monitored and managed by the GRCI Program Manager who will report progress on a regular basis to the NRC's Program Manager and the Technical Project Manager.

The LSN is responsible for addressing various requirements associated with NRC's mission to complete the adjudicatory process for the license application in a three-year time frame. Five components comprising the system's functionality have been identified:

•   Establishing an effective Internet-based method of accessing the records collections of the parties and potential parties to the high-level waste repository licensing proceeding;
•   Providing an audit and compliance subsystem, including the automated tools, policies, and procedures needed to monitor participant compliance;
•   Documenting integrity submission requirements found in10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J;
•   Providing a web-accessible official docket for the proceeding; and
•   Providing electronic information exchange to support motions practice.

The NRC's existing document management system (ADAMS), containing publicly accessible docket files, will meet the docket requirements. Similarly, NRC's existing Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) infrastructure will meet the Subpart J motions practice requirements. Therefore, this project is focused on the search and retrieval component and the audit capability (see Figure 1 below).
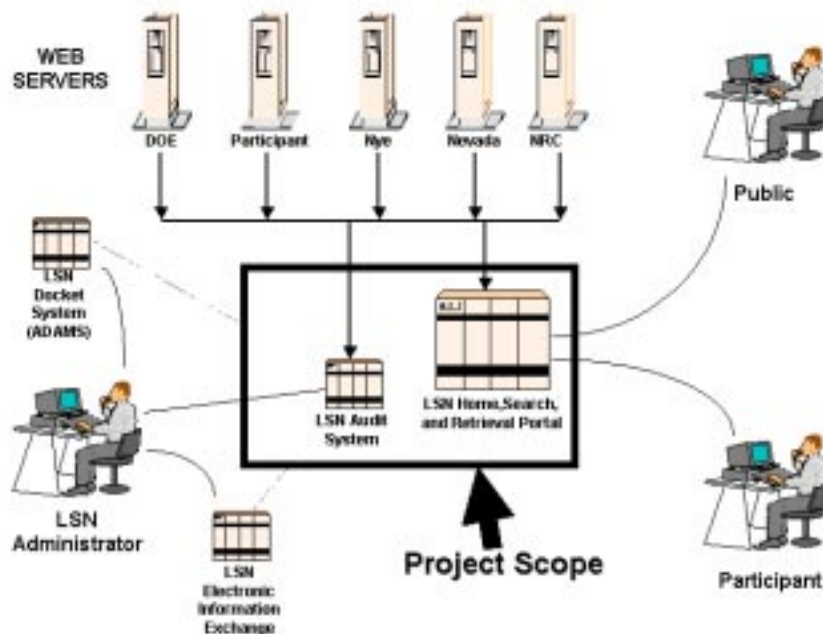

Figure 1. Project Scope

Development will be in full compliance with the NRC's System Development and Life-Cycle Management Methodology (SDLCM). While constructing the LSN, the development will rely

heavily on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software tools and applications, as compared to creating custom software. The scope of this project is shown in Figure 1.

1.4   Assumptions

Assumptions being used during the development of the LSN are:

- All development work will be performed at the GRCI/AT&T facility at 1900 Gallows Road in Vienna, Virginia.
- AT&T will host the LSN Web Portal at the AT&T Data Center in Ashburn, VA.
- All meetings will be held at either the NRC or GRCI/AT&T facilities.
- A revised Rule will go into effect in April or May 2001. This new Rule will have little effect on the design. If changes to the Rule affect the design, the impact(s) will be analyzed and an assessment will be provided.
- Initial draft documents are drafts and, therefore, incomplete.
- In April 2001, the LSN website will initially be open to the public. At that time the system will include partial functionality. After the initial launch, the website will continue to become more capable and robust. Users will be able to review and comment on the site. These comments may be incorporated later to improve the portal. The Government and the development team will evaluate their comments and determine which to incorporate.
- GRCI/AT&T will provide on-line help and training materials to assist the LSN users. The Government will be responsible for distributing the training materials to users and participants.
- The training tutorials will have two audiences: a first time user, and more experienced user, and will be delivered to the Government via computer disk (CD).
- The *LSN Operational Support Guide* will be focused toward an experienced technical user.

1.5   Applicable Documents

- Statement of Work, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Contract Number GS-35F-4507G, dated 12 December 2000.
- GRC International (GRCI) Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Licensing Support Network (LSN), Volume 1 – Technical Documentation, 25 August 2000.
- 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J.
- GRCI's Configuration Management Plan.
- GRCI's Pinnacle Methodology.
- Technical Documents, Plans, and Standards:
    - Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, Section 508, Implementation.

– Computer Security Act of 1987.
– System Development and Life-Cycle Management Methodology (SDLCM), Procedures Standards and Forms, Version 1.2, December 1999.
– System Development and Life-Cycle Management Methodology (SDLCM), Handbook, Version 2.2, December 1999.

1.6   Overview

This document is organized according to the NRC System Development Life-Cycle Management Methodology (SDLCM). As requirements are added, changed, or deleted, this document will be updated. Specific parts and sections include:

- Part 1 contains the Project Management Plan and is divided into five major sections:

    1. Project Definition;
    2. Project Performance Plan;
    3. Risk Management;
    4. Quality Assurance, Configuration Management, Data Management, and Records Management; and
    5. SDLCM Methodology Tailoring.

- Part 2 contains the Software Development Plan.