



UNITED STATES
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

LSS

September 11, 1991

CHAIRMAN

Dr. John W. Bartlett, Director
 Office of Civilian Radioactive
 Management
 Department of Energy
 Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Bartlett:

This is in response to your August 29, 1991 letter to me regarding the Licensing Support System (LSS). I appreciate your willingness to help re-examine the LSS design with the objective of developing a system that is responsive to the needs for improved information management and retrieval, yet more cost-effective than that initially proposed. The goal should be to take full advantage of existing or planned infrastructures, such as your new information management system and NRC's document management systems, so that the LSS can be focussed to meet requirements not satisfied elsewhere.

The Commission believes that a technical working group should be formed to re-examine the LSS design options and develop recommendations. This group would be comprised of members from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) information management staff and others as appropriate, and representatives from TRW Environmental Safety Systems, Inc., as stated in your letter. Mr. Gerald Cranford is designated as the NRC point of contact for establishing the NRC members of the working group and he can be reached on (301) 492-7585. The working group should provide us with a review plan and an estimated schedule one week after the working group has been established. After the technical working group has completed its analysis and you and Mr. Lloyd Donnelly, LSS Administrator, have had a chance to consider its recommendations from a policy perspective, I would like to meet with you to discuss possible future actions. Since we met on August 20, Mr. Donnelly presented the Commission with some potentially cost effective alternatives for meeting LSS requirements, which have been provided to Mr. Cranford to be addressed in the re-examination effort. The results of this re-examination will be used as a basis for the Commission's recommendations on the LSS to OMB this fall. Accordingly, we believe the working group should target to complete its review by early November.

Sincerely,

Originating Office: OCM/IS
 Ref: CR-91-143
 (Commission Correspondence)

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IVAN SELIN

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DATE	9/11/91	9/12/91					



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 29, 1991

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, Commissioner Curtiss, and your staff on August 20 to discuss the civilian high-level radioactive waste management program and, in particular, the Licensing Support System (LSS).

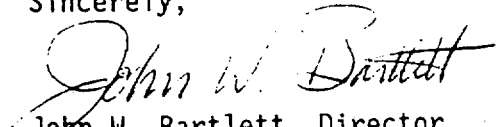
As we discussed, there have been many evolutionary changes since the LSS was initiated in response to schedule requirements for licensing reviews established by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. Most significantly, in his Reassessment Report to Congress in November of 1989, the Secretary revised the planned date for submittal of the license application for repository construction authorization from 1995 to 2001. In response to this revised plan and to other evolving requirements, the civilian waste program is developing a new approach to information management and control wherein information required for the LSS is a specific part of our comprehensive, integrated information management system.

As you noted in our discussion, there is a need and an opportunity as a result of these and other changes to review current design, development, implementation and operational aspects of the LSS. Accordingly, I would like to propose that such a reexamination be undertaken jointly by representatives of the Commission and the Department. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of this review will be useful in supporting our decisions on management responsibilities, schedules, resource needs, work activities, and working interactions between the Commission and the Department.

I would assign the key role in conducting this review on behalf of the Department to our Management and Operating contractor, TRW Environmental Safety Systems, Inc. (TESS). TESS has responsibility for program-wide integration of our activities; their lead participation would bring independent expertise and objectivity to the effort.

I believe, as a result of our discussions, that we are in full accord that a fresh, top-down look at the LSS will be highly beneficial to all parties. I look forward to your favorable response to this proposal.

Sincerely,


John W. Bartlett, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Management