

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Licensing Support Network (LSN) responds to a congressional mandate that, if the Department of Energy (DOE) submits a license application for construction authorization for a high-level radioactive waste (HLW) repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) must reach a determination on the application in a three-year time frame. The LSN is one of the principal tools NRC will use to meet this congressional time line in that it replaces the classic “discovery” exchanges among parties with electronic access to discovery materials prior to the docketing of a license application. The LSN is codified in 10 C.F.R. (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 2, Subpart J (the LSN Rule).

Since the original rule establishing a centralized dial-up Licensing Support System (LSS) was promulgated in 1989, there has been extensive interaction with the parties and potential parties to the HLW repository licensing proceeding under the auspices of the LSS, and later the LSN, Advisory Review Panel (ARP), a federal advisory committee chartered to provide advice and guidance on the design and operation of the system. Subpart J was revised in late 1998 to adopt the LSN, a World Wide Web (www) approach to connecting each party’s documentary collections on whatever hardware and software platform they choose within general guidelines reflecting agreed-upon standards and formats. Revisions to the rule in July 2001 included clarification regarding the responsibilities of the LSN Administrator and also proposed design standards to ensure the exchange of data between the LSN central website and the participant document collections.

These guidelines in no way affect or supersede or otherwise relieve a participant from compliance with the Commission’s Rules of Practice in 10 C.F.R. Part 2. The purpose of these guidelines is to document the decisions reached by the LSNARP and the technical aspects of the July 2001 revisions to the rule that contributed to the design basis of the LSN. Subsequent input from the LSNARP and its technical working groups will be documented and added to these guidelines, as appropriate. A change (addition or deletion) from the prior version of a guideline will be identified by a vertical bar in the margin.