

4. SYSTEM AVAILABILITY

The NRC has determined that a day-for-day extension of the hearing period applies when either the central LSN site or the server hosting the licensing hearing docket is unavailable to participants during established access periods for more than four hours in any day.

4.1 LSN Search and Retrieval Availability

The central LSN site is available for search and retrieval by users seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The LSN search capability is available even while the system is "crawling" participant collections, and while the LSN indexes are undergoing backup. Crawling is performed by another machine (fetch server), so it does not interrupt the server that users access to perform searches. In addition, backups are performed without user interruption because the machines have three NIC cards that allow backup and user access concurrently. However, users may notice a performance degradation when performing searches and retrieving documents during the daily planned backup time between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET), during which participant machines also are being crawled by the LSN.

There may be occasions when one or more participant LSN websites are down and unavailable, although the central LSN site and all other participant LSN websites remain up and available. This could occur for any number of reasons that are outside the control of the LSNA or the unavailable participant. Similarly, regional communications difficulties might impact a particular participant's ability to access other participants' LSN websites through the Internet.

4.2 Electronic Hearing Docket (EHD) Availability

The EHD is available on the web by accessing the NRC home page, clicking on the Electronic Reading Room folder and choosing Electronic Hearing Docket in the menu that appears. Instructions for using the EHD for browsing, searching, and retrieving documents are located on the EHD web site. The EHD is available 18 hours a day, seven days a week except for scheduled maintenance. Scheduled maintenance is performed daily between 11:00 p.m. ET and 5:00 a.m. ET with the exception of Friday. On Friday, scheduled maintenance will be performed between 6:00 p.m. ET and 11:00 p.m. ET.

4.3 Crawling of Participant Systems

Participants should ensure their LSN websites are available for search and retrieval document delivery between the hours of 6:00 a.m. ET and 12:00 midnight ET.

LSN crawls will routinely be conducted between midnight and 6:00 a.m. ET unless previous arrangements have been made with the LSNA. Crawls can be scheduled on an intermittent basis (e.g., weekly rather than daily) by prior coordination with the LSNA.