

**7. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE LSN****7.1 Public Access to the LSN**

The LSN Rule, in § 2.1007(a)(2), states that “(a) system to provide electronic access to the Licensing Support Network shall be provided at the NRC website, <http://www.nrc.gov>, and/or at the NRC Public Document Room beginning in the pre-license application phase.” A similar requirement for DOE in § 2.1007(a)(1) states “(a) system to provide electronic access to the Licensing Support Network shall be provided at the headquarters of DOE, and at all DOE Local Public Document Rooms established in the vicinity of the likely candidate site for a geologic repository, beginning in the pre-license application phase.” Computers located at the NRC and DOE Public Document Rooms will allow free access to the central LSN site for the public, no later than six months prior to DOE’s submitting the license application. In addition, the public will be able to access the LSN at other public facilities, such as libraries that are hooked up to the Internet for the public’s use. The user may be required to pay for the Internet access, and/or for pages downloaded and printed.

The LSN will also be accessible to Internet users with web browsers supporting HTML version 4.0 or higher, so users who do not have Netscape or Internet Explorer, but do have a currently-supported browser, will be able to access the LSN. Both graphical and text-only browsers will be able to access the documentary collections.

Users’ browser software will be able to access the documents on each participant’s LSN website in response to a request passed on by the LSN server. However, the participants are not required to provide search and retrieval software or tools on their document servers to directly support user search and retrieval.

Internet users will have the ability to receive documentary material from the participants’ LSN websites without utilizing a proxy from the LSN server. This connection will be able to provide reasonable responsiveness during periods of normal usage.

**7.2 General Users’ Limited Access to the LSN**

The system has been provisioned to support access to the central LSN site by one hundred fifty (150) concurrent priority users during peak periods.

During critical periods of the licensing hearing, external users (e.g., the general Internet public) may have limited access to ensure that the parties’ priority access users have adequate performance.

**7.3 Availability of the LSN for Individuals with Disabilities**

Web pages on the central LSN site will be authored in compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines for access by individuals with disabilities (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/>). The primary goal of these guidelines is to promote accessibility to people with disabilities; however, adhering to the guidelines during the development of the central LSN site will also enhance the availability of LSN content to all users.