

August 19, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Patricia G. Norry, Director
Office of Administration

FROM: John J. Linehan, Director [original signed by:]
Program Management, Policy Development
and Analysis Staff
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF NRC HIGH-LEVEL WASTE DOCUMENTS
ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM TEST BED

In accordance with your memorandum dated June 27, 1996, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards requests authorization to release NRC high-level waste documents to the public through the Licensing Support System (LSS) Test Bed. The Attachment to this document provides a description of the LSS Test Bed and provides the information requested in the interim guidance and procedures. The LSS Test Bed was demonstrated to representatives from the Office of the General Counsel, the Senior Management Team, the Office of Information Resources Management, and the Publications Branch, Office of Administration, on July 25, 1996. The current schedule calls for the Test Bed to be publicly available by August 31, 1996.

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August 15, 1996

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NAME	SWastler/kv		JThoma		JAustin		MFederline		JLinehan
DATE	08/12/96		08/12/96		08/13/96		08/15/96		08/ /96

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ACNW: YES ___ NO X
IG : YES ___ NO X
LSS : YES X NO ___

Delete file after distribution: Yes X No ___



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J J Linehan".

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Attachment: As stated

CONTACT: Sandra Wastler, NMSS/DWM
415-6724

LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM TEST BED

The Licensing Support System (LSS) concept grew out of the Commission's concern regarding how best to review the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) license application for a high-level radioactive waste (HLW) geologic repository. The focal point of this concern was the provision in Section 114 (d) (2) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, which requires the Commission to issue a final decision approving or disapproving issuance of the construction authorization for the repository within three years of the DOE license application. The LSS offered an automated means for handling the large volume of the documents expected to be used in the repository licensing proceeding. It would also assist the Commission in: 1) managing the novel and complex issues involved; 2) accommodating the increased number of parties who would be generating relevant technical information because of the funding provisions in the NWPA; and 3) dealing with the long duration of the licensing process from site characterization through the review of the license application without losing institutional history. The original LSS concept was that of a dedicated installation (e.g., central mainframe computer) where all parties involved in the licensing process deposit their licensing related documents.

The original LSS concept, however, was developed in an environment substantially different from the current repository licensing activities and information systems technologies available to facilitate them. Time and events have overtaken the original vision of the LSS as embodied in the LSS rule, and to continue LSS-related activities under the rule as it currently stands is not considered an efficient use of scarce resources. Therefore, the NRC is currently considering an approach to the LSS whereby all parties' computer systems are logically tied together via the Internet. In this approach, each party is responsible for setting up its own computer, loading its own documents, and providing for the long term maintenance and control of its own data. Access to all the collections comprising the LSS is accomplished via hyperlinks on the Internet.

The LSS Test Bed is a partial experiment on the practicality of this approach. The NRC funded the development of a test demonstration internet website where limited NRC documents concerning the HLW program would be made available to any interested party. These documents could be searched by text or through selected fields. The purpose of the test bed is to demonstrate and test potential LSS tools using real HLW documents and to allow feedback on the functionality of the internet website.

The LSS Test Bed is supported by the LSS Advisory Review Panel, the Senior Management Board and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguard. The contractor had demonstrated the system to the Office of General Counsel, Senior Management Team representatives, Publication Branch representatives, and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff, and is currently completing changes in the development of the system. Guidance that is currently under development through working groups for content, format consistency and search engine could influence this project later and accommodations will be made accordingly.

The HLW documents in the LSS Test Bed will be restricted to documents currently existing in the public domain and will consist of NRC generated letters, NRC reports, contractor reports, regulations, regulatory guides, and NUREGS. The main source of data for the internet server would come from existing electronic files contained in NRC's Consolidated Document Management System and the Commission's Decision Tracking System. Approximately 250-300 documents will initially be included on the internet server, however, additional documents may be added during the test demonstration. The documents will all be available in ASCII format. In addition, some will be available in WordPerfect format and/or Portable Document Format. For the test bed, no copyrighted material will be placed on the system. At the present time the server will be located at our contractors (Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis), however, at some point in time the system could be transferred to the NRC.

NMSS Designated Contact: Sandra Wastler
415-6724