

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 2, 1989

Phil Altomare
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 4-H-3
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Prototype Testing for the Licensing Support System (LSS)

Dear Mr. Altomare:

As part of the process of designing the Licensing Support System, we have developed a prototype system to study user interfaces and information science issues related to the LSS configuration, and to collect technical information needed to develop specifications for the LSS hardware and software procurements. This effort is now approaching completion and we expect the prototype system - a representative data base with associated text and image retrieval capabilities - to be available this summer for actual user testing.

We expect that the user tests will provide the technical data needed to maximize the match between system capabilities and genuine user requirements, while at the same time minimizing cost and schedule risk in the LSS system development. The participation of potential user groups in this effort is critical. Many, if not most, of the large overruns, schedule slippages, and poor performance of major ADP systems in recent years have been due to lack of obtaining such technical data and user input prior to carrying out the detailed design of systems.

We invite your participation in this user test effort, which is comprised of two separate sessions, between August 7-18, 1989 at our contractor's site in McLean, Va. Our test plan anticipates a subject population of up to 50 individuals (25 per session) representing the spectrum of user groups and disciplines which we will select from the volunteer pool. A profile of the desired user group has been developed and is included as an attachment. We can accommodate some adjustment which may be necessary due to staff availability and budgets, since participation is voluntary and the Department of Energy cannot reimburse participants for their participation.

If your organization would like to participate, please consider the following selection criteria:

1. Subjects should be representative of a peer group with reasonable expectation of using the LSS when completed.


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2. Subjects should have at least one year of experience in the specific content areas they represent, e.g., Federal regulations, nuclear regulations, state or local government, socioeconomics, tribal law, legal research, and technical disciplines such as engineering and geology.
3. Subjects should have at least one year of experience with computer applications (e.g., spread sheets, word processing, graphics, etc.) but should NOT be data processing professionals such as applications or data base programmers, systems analysts, or systems designers.
4. Subjects should have the job/assignment flexibility to spend at least one 3-day period in the Washington, D.C. area for training and testing during the above noted timeframe.
5. Subjects should be selected by you according to these criteria and should NOT be volunteers simply through interest.

Potential participants should notify us by June 19, 1989, either in writing or by contacting Mr. Anthony Muller of SAIC at (703) 734-4030, of their desire to participate. A form for supplying the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and titles of your proposed participants has also been included as a attachment to this letter. During the week of June 19-23 SAIC will contact you to provide additional details, schedule your participants for one of the two test periods, offer assistance, or resolve problems. If you require any additional information in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202)586-4589.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Graser
Program Analyst
Information Resources Management
Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1

DISCIPLINES

TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING	25 Subjects
REGULATORY AND LICENSING	15 Subjects
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE	5 Subjects
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND GENERAL PUBLIC	5 Subjects

ATTACHMENT 2

PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS

Name		
Organization		
Address		
City	State	Zip
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Phone		
Title/Area of Expertise		

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Organization		
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