

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lloyd J. Donnelly, Administrator
Office of the LSS Administrator

FROM: Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM (LSS) STEERING COMMITTEE REVIEW OF
LSS NEEDS AND FUNCTIONALITY

Your memorandum of March 22, 1991 forwarded your proposed summary on the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) proposal for a distributed LSS database and requested that corrected language be provided as needed. Based on the NMSS review of the proposed summary, it appears that there is a misinterpretation of the NMSS position. Basically, NMSS was advocating consideration of a distributed database to help partition costs to the individual generators. The LSS administrator could still design, develop, operate, and maintain the system. While there would be databases maintained at more than one location, there would only be one system. This differentiation is not made in the proposed summary. Therefore, a revised summary on this item is provided below.

"Would any member advocate using some means other than the LSS to meet one or more user needs, that in turn would substantially reduce overall costs?"

In considering lowest LSS cost to NRC, NMSS suggested that the "distributed database" concept might be considered as an alternative to the single database functional element by the LSS Administrator (LSSA) if NRC assumes the DOE LSS design and development responsibilities. (See the attached NMSS March 18, 1991 memorandum to LSSA). A possible approach for implementing such a concept might involve using a LSS local database at the source for the primary document generators (e.g., DOE in Nevada, and DOE and NRC in Washington, D.C.). This concept envisions that the design, development, operation, and maintenance of the system could remain with the LSSA. However, the local database can be clearly identified with the document generators such that it would be reasonable for them to pay the costs of capture, electronic conversion, operation, and maintenance of their portion of the LSS. Thus, most of the costs that would otherwise be expended by NRC to maintain and operate the system would become a DOE budget responsibility since DOE's database would contain over 90% of all LSS records. While there would be databases maintained at more than one location, there would only be one system.

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NMSS suggested consideration of the distributed database in examining alternatives affecting cost, but did not advocate it as a replacement for the "single database" functional element. NMSS believes that additional information on cost savings and impact on the LSS service needs to be developed to adequately consider the distributed database concept.

In addition, the summary transmitted with your March 22, 1991 memorandum does not address NMSS' recommendation on the need for information regarding cost and potential impact to make an informed decision on LSS function elimination or reduction in service. This item needs to be addressed as part of the development of the Commission paper.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Philip Altomare. He can be reached on extension 23400.

Original signed by G. A. Arlotto

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Hoyle, SECY

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