

November 25, 2003

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private  
Property and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The NRC has sent the enclosed proposed changes to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 2, "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," to the Office of the Federal Register for publication for public comment. The proposed rule would revise the Commission's regulations on the use of the Licensing Support Network (LSN) in the licensing proceeding for the disposal of high-level waste (HLW) at a geologic repository. The LSN is an electronic information management system that would provide access to the relevant documents of parties to the HLW repository licensing proceeding. The LSN also provides for the electronic submission of filings by the parties during the proceeding. In this regard, the proposed rule would establish the basic requirements for the submission of adjudicatory materials to the electronic docket, including the submission of large and/or complex documents.

The proposed amendments would also address the loading of duplicate documents on LSN participant websites, the continuing obligation of LSN participants to update their material, and the timing of the provision of certain types of documentary material. The proposed rule would also establish an additional category of material, "Congressional correspondence", that may be excluded from the LSN. The proposed amendments were identified as part of the review the Commission conducted of the LSN requirements to assess whether they appropriately reflect the evolution of the relevant technology, law, and policy since the LSN rules were originally promulgated in 1987. The Commission was also mindful of the July 2003 report of the House Committee on Appropriations that encouraged the Commission to review its LSN requirements to ensure that they do not require the duplication of material otherwise easily obtainable, focus on information that is truly relevant to the substantive decisions that will have to be made, and establish a timeframe in accord with the traditional concept of an adjudicatory proceeding.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Senator Thomas Carper

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