



January 26, 1990

POLICY ISSUE
(Information)

SECY-90-027

For: The Commissioners

From: Lloyd J. Donnelly
LSS Administrator

Subject: LSS ADMINISTRATOR - SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

Purpose: To inform the Commission of the status of the design and development of the Licensing Support System (LSS) and the activities of the Office of the LSS Administrator (LSSA).

Background: On August 25, 1989, the Commission approved a Manual Chapter for the LSSA which required that status reports be sent to the Commission on a quarterly basis. The first quarterly report was sent to the Commission as SECY-89-318 on October 16, 1989.

Discussion: LSS Advisory Review Panel

The LSS Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP) was established by the Commission to provide advice to the LSS Administrator and DOE on selected aspects of the design, development, and operation of the LSS. Mr. John Hoyle is the Panel Chairman. The first meeting of the LSSARP was held on December 19, 1989, in Reno, Nevada. Enclosure 1 is a list of Panel members and coalition representatives who will also attend Panel meetings. At this initial meeting the LSSARP established organizational protocols and discussed the role of the LSSARP vis-a-vis LSS design and development activities. In addition, the LSSARP heard presentations on the status of the high-level waste repository program and on the most recent LSS development schedule. The LSSA staff led a discussion on a process for determining LSS

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document loading priorities. Prioritizing documents for entry into the LSS will ensure that the system will contain the most important material for repository technical review when the database is first searchable. LSSARP members were requested to develop recommendations for priority categories and provide them to the LSSA by September 1990.

A subcommittee of the Panel was established to develop recommendations for a standard header for LSS documents. These recommendations will be reviewed by the full Panel, DOE, and LSSA prior to a final header being disseminated to LSS participants for use in preparing their documents for entry into the LSS. It is important that this header be finalized soon so LSS participants can start indexing their high-level waste records in a way that is fully consistent with LSS requirements. This will save resources in the long term by minimizing the amount of retrofitting that will need to be done before documents can be entered into the LSS.

The next LSSARP meeting is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 1990, in Washington, D.C. In addition to LSS-related issues, this meeting will also include presentations on the automated records management systems of the Patent and Trademark Office, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. A site visit to one or more of these facilities is also planned.

LSS Schedule

During the last quarter, several substantive discussions took place between NRC, DOE, and OMB, which resulted in a new agreement on an LSS development schedule. This schedule will permit early testing and evaluation of system operability, on a small scale, before expanding to the full system. The revised schedule projects the first LSS capture station to start processing highest priority documents in FY 1992 with an annual processing throughput of approximately 750,000 pages. This capture station will process generic and site-specific HLW repository documents into electronic form and store the information on optical disks. After this first station is fully

tested and found acceptable, the procurement and implementation of the balance of the LSS will proceed on a yet-to-be defined schedule, but one which will take into account the rate of progress on the repository program.

Memorandum of Understanding

DOE is currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify responsibilities between the LSSA and OCRWM in regard to LSS design, development and operation. Mr. Leo Duffy mentioned this MOU as a high priority action in his December 20, 1989, briefing to the Commission on the status of DOE's high-level waste program. I am independently developing my thoughts on what should be in the MOU and plan to provide these to DOE to facilitate the timely development of this important document. No agreement will be finalized without prior review and approval by the Commission.

Budget Responsibility for the Office of the LSS Administrator and for LSS Operations and Maintenance

The Chairman's August 29, 1989, letter to OMB, transmitting the agency's FY 1991 budget request, reiterated the Commission's view that DOE should budget for the LSS Administrator and for the operation and maintenance of the LSS, starting in FY 1992. In recent discussions between the NRC Controller and OMB, the OMB staff reiterated their previous position that if the NRC is managing the operation and maintenance of the LSS, that the associated funds should be in NRC's appropriation, not DOE's. Sometime before NRC's and DOE's FY 1992 budgets are submitted to Congress, this issue will need to be resolved. It would be helpful to me, as I formulate my Five-Year Plan and budget for FY 1992, to have this issue resolved early in the year.


Lloyd J. Donnelly
LSS Administrator

Enclosure:
List of LSSARP Members (including coalition representatives)

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OGC ACNW
OIG ASLBP
LSS ASLAP
GPA SECY

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