



POLICY ISSUE (Information)

April 20, 1990

SECY-90-027A

For: The Commissioners

From: Lloyd J. Donnelly
LSS Administrator

Subject: LSS ADMINISTRATOR - THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT
(January - March 1990)

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 Manual Chapter NRC-0109 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. The second was sent as SECY-90-027 on January 26, 1990.

Discussion: LSS Advisory Review Panel

The second meeting of the LSS Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP) was held on March 20, 1990, in Bethesda, Maryland, with a site visit and tour of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's computer facility in Crystal City, Virginia, on March 21, 1990. At this meeting DOE made a presentation on the status of LSS development and the most recent LSS schedule (the schedule for LSS development is summarized later in this paper). The LSSA staff led a discussion on document headers and the need for an early decision on the elements of information that must be included in the LSS header. A document header is the series of descriptive fields that will be prepared for each document

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entered into the LSS. LSS participants are required to submit basic header information with each document, and the LSS Administrator will supplement these basic fields with additional information to improve the accuracy of system searches.

The Panel members also discussed their desire to have early input into DOE's LSS design process. It was agreed that Panel members would carefully review and provide comments on all LSS design documents prepared by DOE. These design documents will be used to prepare detailed functional specifications for the LSS.

Representatives of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, National Archives and Records Administration, and Securities and Exchange Commission discussed their experiences with design, procurement, and operation of large automated information management systems.

The next LSSARP meeting is scheduled for June 7, 1990, in Washington, D. C. It will be devoted primarily to reviewing the recommendations of a Panel working group which is currently evaluating header needs for LSS documents. The working group's recommendations will be reviewed by the full Panel before a final recommendation is submitted to the LSS Administrator.

LSS Schedule

Under the current LSS development schedule, DOE anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals for the procurement of the LSS in August 1991, with the contract award to be made in April 1992. Installation and acceptance testing of the first LSS node will be completed by December 1992. This node will have the full functional capability for document capture plus search and retrieval of both full text and images. This first LSS node will have the capability of capturing and loading approximately one-half million pages during FY 1993. The document loading schedule beyond that needed to test and evaluate the system will be approved by the Commission based on a cost and needs analysis to be prepared by this office.

Nodes will be added to the LSS consistent with the pace of the repository program taking into account two primary needs: first, the technical review needs of system users, and second, the need to economically capture an estimated volume of about 20 million pages of documentary material between 1994 and 2001.

Memorandum of Understanding

In January 1990, I sent the Commission a copy of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that I had forwarded to DOE. This MOU delineates LSSA/DOE responsibilities for design, development, and operation of the LSS. In March 1990, we met with OCRWM staff to discuss some of the issues related to the MOU. I expect DOE to send me their proposed MOU by May 1, 1990. Negotiations between my staff and DOE will commence soon thereafter. We anticipate achieving a mutually agreeable MOU by early July. The negotiated MOU will be provided to the Commission for review and approval prior to finalization.

DOE Compliance with LSS Rule

Under the original repository program schedule, we intended to conduct our first evaluation of DOE compliance with the LSS document identification and submission requirements in June 1990. This schedule is no longer realistic given the extension of the repository program, which has substantially altered the original document processing schedule that DOE was preparing to meet. As mentioned previously, we are in the process of developing a revised document loading schedule. Once approved by the Commission, it will serve as one of the primary bases for assessing future compliance. Compliance will also be measured against the Commission's Topical Guidelines and specific document preparation standards to be issued by this office. On a parallel track, we are working on a compliance evaluation program which will produce (1) the criteria for assessing compliance, (2) specific compliance guidance for DOE and other LSS participants, and (3) a compliance evaluation plan. I anticipate completing the preparatory work by the end of 1990 and initiating compliance evaluation at an appropriate

point in 1991. DOE and NRC are currently developing internal procedures for meeting their document identification and submission responsibilities under the LSS rule.

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

During the period the LSS rule was being negotiated, the Commission agreed to administer the LSS on the condition that DOE include the costs of administration, including operation and maintenance costs, in its budget. The Office of the Controller has recently forwarded a draft Memorandum of Understanding to DOE that would implement this arrangement. An initial discussion with DOE of this draft MOU is scheduled for late April 1990.


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