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QA: N/A

JUN 11 2003

OVERNIGHT MAIL

Daniel J. Graser, LSN Administrator
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**REQUESTED FOLLOW-UP TO LICENSING SUPPORT NETWORK ADVISORY REVIEW
PANEL (LSNARP) ON JUNE 3, 2003**

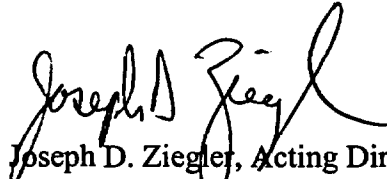
This letter refers to a discussion between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at a meeting of the LSNARP on June 3, 2003 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

At that meeting, the DOE and NRC discussed the technical means and timing by which the DOE's Licensing Support Network (LSN) documents, when provided to the NRC, could be indexed and made available through the NRC LSN web site. The DOE reiterated its present plans to make its LSN documents electronically available to the NRC six months in advance of submission of the License Application (LA). The NRC expressed the view that the DOE's documents must be indexed before they could be considered electronically available. The NRC noted that it has configured software to perform the indexing, but it appears that the number of DOE documents and the mechanics of the NRC software will result in a process that would take, at best, several months.

As the DOE has stated, it intends to comply with the requirements of the LSN rule including certification that relevant documentary material is electronically available no later than six months prior to the submission of its LA. The DOE recognizes the NRC's position on the need to index the documentary material. The DOE discussed at the LSNARP meeting a possible technical resolution where, if feasible, the DOE would index its own documents using the same software, methodology and auditing procedures that the NRC would use. Then, the DOE could provide the resulting index to the NRC at the same time it submits its LSN documents. The DOE noted that the NRC would be given access to audit and otherwise monitor and comment on the DOE's indexing activity during the process. The DOE asked the NRC whether this option would be considered by the NRC as a means to mitigate or eliminate the timing problem associated with the NRC indexing function.

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As requested by the NRC at the LSNARP meeting, the DOE hereby submits this question in writing. A written response from the NRC by the end of June would be most helpful. If the NRC response is positive, I believe it would then be appropriate for the DOE and NRC staff to discuss this possibility in greater detail. Please contact Harry E. Leake at (702) 794-1457 with any questions you may have.


Joseph D. Ziegler, Acting Director
Office of License Application and Strategy

OPS:HEL-1319

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