



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

June 24, 1996

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO LSSARP MEMBERS

FROM:

John Hoyle 

SUBJECT: ACCESS TO DOE DOCUMENTS

As a follow-up to the May 2, 1996 LSSARP meeting, Claudia Newbury has provided the attached description of DOE's RISweb. As Ms. Newbury's transmittal memorandum indicates, the RISweb will allow Panel members access to the current index of DOE records and to gain experience in the use of internal/web technology for document review.

Please provide any comments or questions you may have regarding RISweb directly to John Gandi at (702) 794-1313.

Attachment:

6/11/96 Memo from Claudia Newbury
w/enclosure



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 98608
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8608

JUN 11 1996

John C. Hoyle
Office of the Secretary
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**RECORDS INFORMATION SYSTEM (RIS) ACCESS BY THE LICENSING SUPPORT
SYSTEM ADVISORY REVIEW PANEL (LSSARP) (SCPB: N/A)**

A brief presentation on access to RIS was presented to the LSSARP by John Gandi at the LSSARP meeting held on May 2, 1996, in Las Vegas, Nevada. During that presentation, Mr. Gandi stated that the purpose of the RISweb is to allow the LSSARP members access to the current index to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) records and to gain experience in the use of internet/web technology for document review. The RIS is not intended to be the Licensing Support System.

Enclosed is a description of the RISweb that addresses questions raised during the presentation. This description provides instructions on the use of the RISweb as well as architecture being developed for security of RIS files.

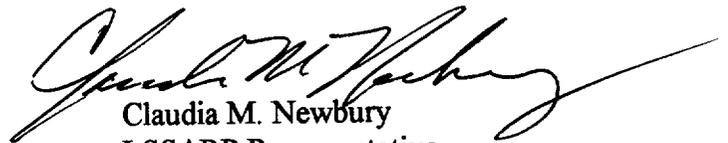
Please distribute the RISweb description to members of the LSSARP.

In addition, please request that panel members provide feedback to John G. Gandi at (702) 794-1313.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (702) 794-1361.

AMSL:CMN-1919

Enclosure:
RISweb Description


Claudia M. Newbury
LSSARP Representative

JUN 11 1996

John C. Hoyle

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cc w/encl:

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RISweb: An Innovation In Information Availability

Background

As part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (YMSCO) currently operates a Records Information System (RIS) which serves as the repository for indexing information for all YMSCO federal records including final technical reports, incoming and outgoing correspondence, and other program relevant items. Independent of the RIS, under 10 CFR 2 Subpart J, DOE is responsible for the design and development of the Licensing Support System (LSS), "... an electronic information system to facilitate the discovery process and the motions process of the license proceedings under the Civilian Radioactive Waste Program." (Licensing Support System (LSS): Phase 2 Functional Requirements, Rev. 0, September 29, 1995, p. 1). In addition, as part of the DOE's ongoing initiative to make public information more readily available, YMSCO is undertaking innovative projects designed to use state-of-the-art computer technology and readily available telecommunications capabilities to facilitate communications with interested parties and the public.

Purpose

Access to the RIS was traditionally restricted to individuals who had a YMSCO VAXcluster account. These accounts were only given to individuals directly employed by OCRWM, thus precluding access by interested parties, such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Affected Units of Government (AUG), and the LSS Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP). To support information availability and the LSSARP's wishes, YMSCO agreed to provide broader, electronic access to the RIS. Originally conceived as a captive user account system, the enhanced access was constrained by limitations on funding LSS activities during the current fiscal year. However, in compliance with the departmental information availability initiative, YMSCO leveraged off of the World Wide Web (WWW) Internet utility using the HyperText Markup Language to develop a low cost, efficient interface to the RIS. The resultant information dissemination system, entitled *RISweb*, provides read-only access to record indexes and header data and contains an on-line ordering subsystem which can be used to request a hard copy of any document contained in the RIS. *RISweb* also provides a demonstration to YMSCO's internal constituency and other interested parties of new capabilities for providing document management and information dissemination using the Internet as an efficient communications mechanism.

Scope

Although *RISweb* is capable of retrieving a document image for demonstration purposes, that feature is not planned as part of *RISweb* deployment over the Internet. Retrieval of images will only be possible after completion of "Records Reprocessing", when all records currently on microfilm have been scanned. *RISweb* will be implemented by copying of records header information from the BASISplus database on the YMSCO VAXcluster to the YMSCO WWW server. The RIS data is staged on an NT server in sequential files. For smaller systems, this is feasible. However, this approach of maintaining a copy is unsuitable for the large quantities of data required for a comprehensive document image database. Consequently, this architecture provides header information only on the *RISweb* that is searchable by full-text search tools and by parameters ranging on specified fields, and to facilitate the electronic ordering of documents. As members of the LSSARP, NRC, AUG and YMSCO access *RISweb*, they will have an opportunity to provide valuable feedback that will help correct, clarify and refine the current system so that when the next advance in information dissemination takes place at YMSCO an even better service can be made available.

Enclosure

Discussion

The process of innovation in information availability does not isolate RISweb from other initiatives, but rather integrates it into the vital role of achieving major program objectives. The LSS is such an objective, and much of the data indexed in the RIS will be of interest in any licensing support activity. RISweb will facilitate hard copy access to RIS documents, but a comprehensive records reprocessing effort that makes all document images electronically available cannot be undertaken fiscally until October, 1996.

With regard to documents electronically ordered from RISweb, OPA has experts that make the kinds of determinations needed prior to the public release of any document. Limiting RISweb to hard copy requests that are reviewed by OPA prior to release maintains the existing procedure and complies with FOIA regulations. Once reprocessing is completed, potential RIS data problems will be resolved allowing the implementation of new information dissemination systems that will accommodate online, electronic image retrieval capabilities and many other enhancements allowed by emerging technology. In fact, planning has already started to run a WWW server on a non-clustered VAX with the ability to access image data on the existing VAXcluster. Security for primary files would be provided by this architecture since the WWW server would be running on a fire-walled, non-clustered VAX that would provide image and other data from original databases in a very secure environment. Although this solution overcomes some of the technical issues associated with the current RISweb, its implementation needs to be phased with the records reprocessing operations, the availability of funding for additional software licenses and computing resources, and increased system administration. While these developments are progressing, RISweb's user community is already providing valuable feedback that is leading to ongoing enhancements such as the inclusion of document titles as well as accession numbers. Simply stated, YMSCO intends to continue to provide the best possible service to the LSSARP as well as its other constituencies.

Conclusion

YMSCO's RISweb is an innovation in information availability that provides access to the header information of OCRWM's records holdings. Its purpose is to expedite and facilitate the dissemination of documentary material to the LSSARP, NRC, and AUG. Since the RISweb is located on the WWW, information is available to the general public as well as the specified interested parties. The dissemination of documentary material identified through the RISweb is controlled through formalized departmental procedures under the auspices of the OPA. The evolution of RISweb will be based upon user feedback, records reprocessing, funding availability, and changes in applicable technologies. Finally, the RISweb serves to demonstrate the dissemination of information using the Internet as an effective communication technology.