



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Licensing Support System Advisory Review Panel

FROM: Arnold E. Levin *AEL*  
Licensing Support System Administrator

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF THE LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM

Since our last Licensing Support System Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP) meeting on July 6 and 7, 1995, at the Oneida Nation reservation in Green Bay, Wisconsin, several things have happened which will have a major impact on the future of the Licensing Support System (LSS). As you are aware, Congress has substantially reduced funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) High Level Waste Program. At the same time, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) appropriation has been substantially reduced. As a consequence, DOE does not currently plan to expend any resources on the LSS and the timing of the high level waste repository licensing application is in question. In addition, there is some concern within the NRC that the technological assumptions underlying the LSS as envisioned in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart J are becoming increasingly dated. These developments have led me to conclude that it is prudent to examine the overall status of the LSS, including the technology described in Subpart J.

Your views on these matters are important and will be the primary topic of discussion at the LSSARP meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 2 and May 3, 1996. In light of the impending funding restrictions that many of you are anticipating, this will probably be our final face-to-face meeting until the current funding situation improves. At the meeting, we also plan to discuss some ways that you can continue to participate in the discussions on LSS-related issues. Methods we will propose for maintaining an ongoing dialog include using electronic communications such as video conferences and/or world wide web browser technology. (In this regard, you may wish to familiarize yourself with NRC's recently completed "RuleNet" demonstration. It may be reviewed using an Internet browser such as Netscape or Mosaic at the following URL: <http://nssc.11n1.gov/RuleNet>).

In addition to specific discussions about the continued viability of the LSS as originally envisioned, we will present information about recent developments in litigation support systems and discuss how those systems might be used in NRC's 10 CFR Part 2 adjudications (including Subpart G formal hearings).

I have enjoyed working with the LSSARP over the past two and a half years. In my opinion we have developed a strong working relationship among all LSSARP members (as evidenced by the substantive results of our various working groups), and our LSSARP meetings have been productive in surfacing and resolving many issues. I am committed to keeping this relationship alive and growing by maintaining ongoing communications among all parties.

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