

To: LSSARP Technical Working Group Members

From: Fielden Dickerson

Fielden Dickerson 2/10/95

Subject: Location of LSS

The Congress in the Fiscal Year 1989 appropriations bill for DOE included language that designated UNLV as the site of the LSS. Attached is a letter from Senator Johnston that makes this point. As a second attachment I have also included a copy of the specific language that came out of the conference committee.

On the one hand it seems that Congress has spoken and that the LSS must be at UNLV. On the other hand there are those who will point out that the language that is the basis for this conclusion is part of an appropriations bill and as such gives only a "snapshot" in time. At the time of the FY 1989 appropriations bill that was the way Congress felt about this subject, but there has been no subsequent affirmation of this view nor a statement of the current Congressional view. Moreover, the appropriations bill directed DOE to place the LSS at UNLV, but NRC is the organization that has responsibility for operating and locating the site for the LSS. Thus it would seem that no site has been identified for the LSS until the NRC specifically makes a statement of LSS location.

We have not identified any view nor found any written material that objects to the LSS being located at UNLV, hence in light of this and the Congressional statement it would seem appropriate for some form of affirmation to be made that the policy is that the LSS will be at UNLV. This could take the form of the TWG asking the ARP to make a formal statement that this would be the situation. Clearly, before this step could be taken by the TWG, we would need to coordinate it with NRC.

This action of developing a formal statement of where the LSS will be housed is a necessary step to allow planning for facility development for the LSS.

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INFORMATION ONLY
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8033

SEN. 860830-0053

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The Honorable John A. Harrington
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Secretary Harrington:

The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, P.L. 100-371, includes language directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to place the Licensing Support System (LSS) for the Civilian Radioactive Waste Repository at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The Act further directs DOE to negotiate a cooperative agreement with UNLV and provides up to \$6 million for establishing the LSS at UNLV.

In passing this legislation it was the intent of the Appropriations Committee and Congress to provide Nevada and UNLV with an opportunity to participate in the development of this unique computer facility which is recognized to be of such national importance that it has been designated a Presidential Priority System. In addition to participation in the development of the LSS facility, the cooperative agreement was intended to provide UNLV with high performance computing capacity to support the computational needs of the nuclear waste program. I believe it is now timely for DOE to undertake an intensive study of the computational requirements of the nuclear waste program and of the need for high performance computing capacity at the LSS facility at UNLV.

By December 15, 1988, please provide this Committee with a report addressing the additional computational needs of the civilian nuclear waste program, as well as associated DOE programs, that can be well satisfied by high performance computing capacity at the UNLV LSS facility.

Sincerely,

J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development

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Congressional Record -- House

Wednesday, June 22, 1988

100th Cong. 2nd Sess.

134 Cong Rec H 4617

REFERENCE: Vol. 134 No. 93

TITLE: CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4567

TEXT:

[*H4617] Mr. BEVILL submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. Rept. 100-724)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL FUND

An Advisory Committee on High Level Waste Licensing Support System has been meeting since September 1987 on a negotiated rulemaking by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The intent of this rulemaking is to provide the procedure for applications for a license to receive and process high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel at a geologic repository that will be based on an electronic information management system called the licensing support system (LSS) that will contain material from the license applicant -- the Department of Energy -- its contractors, and all other potential participants in the high-level radioactive waste licensing proceeding. It is presently intended that LSS will not be part of any computer system that is controlled by any potential participant to the high-level waste repository licensing proceeding, nor should the LSS be physically located on the premises of any of the potential participants. Nevertheless, DOE or other potential participants would not be precluded from using the LSS computer facility for a records management system independent to the LSS. The conferees agree that funds provided in the fiscal year 1989 appropriation are to be used to initiate this work in this fiscal year and that the University of Nevada/Las Vegas be designated as the site of the computer facility that would incorporate both the LSS and independent records management system of other potential participants including the Department and the NRC. Location of the LSS at the University of Nevada/Las Vegas is not intended to preclude it from becoming a contractor to DOE. An amount of up to \$6,000,000 is made available for this purpose and to work out a cooperative arrangement with the university.

REFERENCE: Vol. 134 No. 93

TITLE: CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4567