



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

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FROM:

Arnold Levin
Arnold Levin
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TO: LSS Advisory Review Panel

SUBJECT: LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM NETWORK DISCUSSIONS

By my transmittal dated November 14, 1996, we informed you of the availability of a computer-based communications program called "LSSNet," which is intended to maximize the interaction between the NRC, the LSS Advisory Review Panel, and the public on rulemaking issues related to the Licensing Support System.

LSSNet has been available for several months. It is used by participants in the LSS Advisory Review Panel discussions, many of whom have concluded that some features of the 10 CFR 2 Subpart J no longer provide optimal approaches to electronic information management. LSSNet has allowed the LSS Advisory Review Panel, other potential users of the LSS, and the public to communicate both with the NRC and among themselves on these issues.

Participation on LSSNet has been interesting but limited. The site (<http://lssnet.llnl.gov>) has been visited by over 90 different organizations in the U.S. and five foreign countries. Nevertheless, comments have been provided by only a few participants in previous LSS Advisory Review Panel discussions. This has made it difficult to define LSS rulemaking issues, to identify alternatives to address those issues, and to determine the extent of agreement on those alternatives.

We would like to provide everyone a final opportunity to comment on the LSSNET Phase I topics before we move on to Phase II. The concept of LSSNET is that we will proceed through a three-phase process, from a general discussion of the LSS rulemaking issues in Phase I to the consideration of draft rulemaking text in Phase III. In Phase II, based on the participant commentary during Phase I, the NRC staff will propose some specific solutions to the rulemaking issues for further participant comment and suggested alternatives. It is also anticipated that during Phase II we will conduct formal electronic voting by LSSNet participants on some of these issues. The Phase II discussions will then be further refined into proposals on actual rulemaking text for participant comment in Phase III. The ultimate goal is to fashion a draft

proposed rule which will be submitted for Commission review and approval. The foundation for the draft proposed rule is being established by the Phase I discussions. Therefore, it is important for all participants to comment on these Phase I issues.

In order to encourage your participation, I have attached a copy of all comments received to date via LSSNet.

In addition to the hardcopy version of this letter, an electronic version will be sent via email to those who have participated on the LSS Advisory Panel for whom we have e-mail addresses.

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