

PDC

October 2, 1989

Mr. David Ross
Contracts and Property Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8518

Subject: COMMENTS ON RFC NOS. DE-RP08-89NV10881 AND DE-RP08-89NV10888, CAPTURE PROCESS CONTROL RESOURCES, AND SCANNING AND OCR DATA CONVERSION RESOURCES.

Dear Mr. Ross:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of the Licensing Support System Administrator (LSSA), has completed its review of the above referenced RFC's. My staff has identified a number of broad issues as well as specific comments on the two documents.

I support DOE's procurement strategy for open system architecture, standard hardware platforms, software interfaces and conformance to government and industry standards. I view with utmost importance DOE's efforts to achieve compliance with these standards to facilitate interoperability of information systems, software portability, data interchange and access, vendor independence and future system upgrades. As the organization responsible for future operation and maintenance of the LSS, I need to be confident that the individual LSS components are integrated into a fully operational system ready to serve the user community before and during the high level waste licensing proceeding. I recommend that the RFPs clearly require potential vendors to demonstrate compliance with GOSIP by conformance testing within and across vendor products.

In order to maximize the potential for bidder responsiveness to the RFPs, I suggest that DOE have potential bidders review DOE's concept feasibility and design analysis documents in conjunction with 10 CFR 2 Subpart J. I believe this would help bidders submit better proposals since they would more fully understand the total system design, and the institutional framework and environment in which the system will be operated. For the same reason, DOE should ensure that the functions of hardware and software components, and the basis for their performance specifications, are clearly explained in the RFP. For example, it should explain that the full text search software is not only

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used for search and retrieval, but also for document content analysis during the indexing process. Additional examples are provided in the Enclosure.

I would also recommend that the RFPs incorporate software quality assurance requirements as well as capture station security requirements. In this regard, you might be interested in reviewing NRC NUREG/CR-4640, Handbook of Software Quality Assurance Techniques Applicable to the Nuclear Industry for specific guidance on requirements to assure quality in the development and use of software.

If you have any questions concerning our comments please do not hesitate to call Avi Bender of my staff at (301) 492-4163.

Sincerely,

original letter signed by
Lloyd J. Donnelly

Lloyd J. Donnelly
LSS Administrator

Enclosure: As stated

cc: B. Cerny, DOE

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COMMENTS - CATEGORY I DOCUMENT

SECTION	PAGE	COMMENT
C.1.2	C-2	The RFP's should clarify what is meant by a "form suitable for loading into the LSS Search and Image System".
C.1.2	C-3	Due to its importance for LSS design, the LSSA would like to have DOE confirm the basis for the assumption that "data on microfilm/microfiche media... is not expected in large volumes".
C.1.3	C-3	Add to 1) "receives and processes electronic mail including electronic submission of ASCII files" in order to highlight the different purposes of E-Mail in the LSS. Potential bidders should understand that the capture station is not just an independent document conversion service, but that it is integrated into the LSS participant's information resource management infrastructure. The primary role of E-Mail during the initial implementation of the LSS is for facilitating document capture. Once the LSS is operational, E-Mail will be used for additional purposes during the hearing process.
C.3.1.1.1	C-12	On item 2), on the face of the document I do not believe that 10 minutes is enough, unless justification can be provided.
C.4.1.2.2	C-34	The capability to make global type changes to record format and contents should also be included.
C.4.1.2.4	C-35	There should be a provision for linking a capture station to an LSS participant's document creation system to allow for direct transfer of ASCII text (rather than relying solely on mag tapes or diskettes). This capability should be supported by standard hardware and software.
C.4.1.2.5	C-36	The electronic mail package should also have features for document archiving, downloading and transfer through the network into the CaSH full text search system. The E-Mail package itself, or in combination with another utility, should be capable of receiving E-Mail from different vendor E-Mail systems. This feature will be required in

order to facilitate the receipt of documentary material from multi-vendor E-Mail packages. The package should also allow for date stamp (when sent and received) tracking, filing and retrieving messages.

C.4.1.5 C-43 a) DOE should consider adding hypertext capability as one of the requirements.

b) Based on a recent discussion with DOE, it is also our understanding that the full text search software is to be used for document content analysis during the indexing process in addition to full text search and retrieval. Since content analysis is an LSS design requirement, DOE should provide the functional specifications for this purpose. In this way DOE may encourage bidders to propose innovative "expert systems" to facilitate the capture station control and conversion process.

C.5.1.1 C-55 The network components should provide a capability to interface with existing networks at the NRC and DOE.

COMMENTS - CATEGORY II DOCUMENT*

C.3.1.2-
.2.1

C-24 In item 3) DOE should ensure that a consistent approach is taken for identifying the performance requirements for similar types of components. For example, a broad performance requirement of "sufficient speed" is stated for this component. However, the requirement for a similar component, the high speed printer in the Category I document, is very specific, i.e., 30 pages per minute. DOE should review component performance requirements to ensure that a consistent approach is taken for similar types of components.

H.23 H-7 Add: "Source code written to integrate the capture system shall be the property of the U.S. Government. Detailed documentation shall be provided to facilitate future software modifications." Guidance and examples of quality assurance requirements are provided in the last paragraph of the NRC NUREG referenced in the cover letter transmitting these comments.

*Some of the Category I document comments also apply to the Category II Document, but have not been repeated.