

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATC/RY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEE 2 0 1007

Ben C. Rusche, Director Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. MS-GB-270 Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ben:

I am enclosing a signed copy of a modified version of the agreement on the LSS. I particularly sought to emphasize in my modifications that the agencies are in concert on the LSS.

I consider the LSS to be a major accomplishment in the HLW program.

Sincerely,

John G. Davis, Director Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

WM Record Elle

Distribution:

WM Project \_\_\_\_\_ Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_ PDR \_\_\_\_\_ \*LPDR \_\_\_\_\_

8704080198 870220 PDR WASTE WM-1 PDR

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Agreement in Principle between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the Development of a Licensing Support System (LSS)

This Agreement in Principle (AIP) sets forth the mutual policy and commitment by the two agencies for prompt development of a Licensing Support System (LSS), in support of the Commission's high-level radioactive waste (HLW) licensing proceeding. The objective of the LSS will be to facilitate compliance with Section 114d of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act which requires a Commission decision on Construction Authorization for a geologic repository for HLW within three years of DOE submission of a license application. DOE and NRC recognize that one of the most significant contributors to the length of past licensing reviews has been the time associated with finding, sending, receiving and handling of information and data. This is true for both day-to-day technical work to address licensing issues as well as for filing of motions and for the discovery process associated with adjudicatory proceedings.

Accordingly, the parties agree that

- There is a need to promptly develop the LSS as a major step in streamlining the licensing process.
- In concert with DOE and other interested parties, a negotiated rulemaking should be initiated by NRC to describe the requirements for the system and for all parties in the licensing proceedings to fully participate in the use of the LSS in the licensing process.
- 3. In concert with the NRC rulemaking, DOE will have the responsibility for designing and providing the LSS and for incorporating on-line full text and image storage and retrieval techniques.
- 4. In the interim, until the LSS is operational, DOE and NRC both agree that there is a need to promptly collect documents significant to HLW repository licensing in a form that can readily be entered into the LSS.

The undersigned parties (or their successors), representing their Agency's commitments, shall confer not less than quarterly to assure that the objectives of this memorandum are being effectuated.

Dohn G. Davis, Director Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NRC) z/20/87 Ben C. Rusche, Director Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (DOE)

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Accordingly, the parties agree that

- 1. There is a need to develop the LSS as a major step in streamlining the licensing process.
- The States and Tribes and other participants should fully participate in the use of the LSS in the licensing proceedings.
- 3. DOE will have the responsibility for designing and implementing the LSS and for incorporating on-line full text image storage and retrieval technique.
- 4. A negotiated rulemaking should be initiated by NRC to specify the requirements for all parties in the licensing proceedings to use the LSS as the total record in the licensing process.

The undersigned parties (or their successors), representing their Agency's commitments, shall confer not less than quarterly to assure that the objectives of this memorandum are being effectuated.

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John G. Davis, Director Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NRC)

Ben C. Rusche, Director Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (DOE)