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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 9, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel Members

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Chairman
Licensing Support Network
Advisory Review Panel

SUBJECT: MEETING TO BE HELD IN LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 13, 1999

As you know, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reestablished the Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel (LSNARP), to assist it in developing an electronic information management system for records and documents relating to the licensing of a geologic repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

This Panel last met in February 1998 to consider proposed revisions to the NRC's rules governing the procedures which are applicable to the licensing of such a repository. The revisions, as modified to accommodate a number of the Panel's concerns, were put into effect early in 1999. They are intended to allow the application of technological developments that have occurred after the original rule was adopted in 1989. The revisions have also assured continuation of a Licensing Support Network Administrator (LSNA) to serve in the vital role of identifying key issues and focusing efforts to find and implement solutions, coordinating the functioning of the Licensing Support Network (LSN), and resolving problems regarding LSN availability and the integrity of the LSN data base.

In order for the NRC to receive sufficient and timely guidance in areas needed for the design and development of a central portal site that will simplify access to participant websites, the LSNARP will need to meet in the very near future and reestablish a technical working group to aid it in providing sound advice to the LSNA on the technical issues. The Commission is aware, however, that several other government agencies, including the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, are also scheduling meetings during this same time frame which may require your or your office's attendance. The Commission's own Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste is also finalizing the dates and location for its next meeting in Las Vegas. We are attempting to work closely with the other agencies to minimize conflicts in our schedules and to be more aware of the many demands on your time.

In view of the need to get a technical working group established and active soon, we are scheduling a meeting of the LSNARP in Las Vegas for Wednesday, October 13, 1999. We recognize that some members may have difficulty in arranging their schedules to accommodate this meeting, but we believe that it is very important to let the technical working group begin consideration of the key technical issues regarding an Internet system so that they may report

back to the Panel later in the year. At that time, the Panel will be asked to give the LSNA advice on the preferred technical solution which NRC will be asked to fund and implement. The attached Federal Register Notice contains further details regarding the October 13 meeting.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we attempt to bring the members of the Panel together again in Las Vegas during one of the busiest periods of activity yet regarding Yucca Mountain. I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it on the 13th of October. As in the past, we will send out the transcripts and handout materials after the meeting to all those who could not attend so that they may provide additional comments if they wish.

Attachment: Federal Register Notice

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Licensing Support Network

Advisory Review Panel

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel (LSNARP) will hold a meeting on October 13, 1999, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4315 Swenson St., Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting will be open to the public pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 94-463, 86 Stat. 770-776).

AGENDA: The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 1999, and continue that day until completed. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to the design, development, and operation of the Licensing Support Network (LSN), the Internet-based successor to the Licensing Support System (LSS).

As was explained in the final rule establishing the LSN, which was published in the Federal Register on January 29, 1999 (63 Fed. Reg. 71729), the LSN is intended to provide a pre-application discovery database consisting of Internet-accessible sites that would be operated by the potential parties to the proceeding, including the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the NRC. The pre-application availability of these discovery materials is intended to ensure compliance with the schedule for a decision on the construction authorization for the high-level nuclear waste (HLW) repository contained in Section 114(d) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1999, the NRC re-established the LSNARP as a successor to the LSS Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP). Like the LSSARP, the LSNARP is to provide advice and recommendations to the NRC, including the LSN Administrator, concerning the design, development, and operation of an LSN electronic information management system for the storage and retrieval of information relevant to the Commission's future licensing proceeding for a geologic repository for HLW disposal. When the NRC Rules of Practice in 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J, recently were modified to provide an Internet-based technological solution to the submission and management of records and documents relating to the licensing of a HLW repository, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. 2.1011(e) the LSNARP was re-established to provide advice on such issues as the type of computer system necessary to comply with the requirements for electronic document production and service; the operation, maintenance, and compliance monitoring of the electronic document databases established for the potential participants to the HLW repository licensing proceeding; and solutions to improve the LSN functioning once it is operational.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3-F23, Washington, DC 20555
Attn: John C. Hoyle (telephone 301-415-7467; fax 301-415-5599; e-mail JCH@NRC.GOV) or Jack G. Whetstine (telephone 301-415-7391; fax 301-415-5599; e-mail JGW@NRC.GOV).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Prior to the LSNARP meeting, the LSN Administrator will make available to interested persons materials that outline policies and issues relating to LSN design, deveiopment, and operation. Interested persons may make oral presentations to the LSNARP or file written statements regarding these matters. Requests for oral presentations should be made to one of the contact persons listed above as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Any person having a written statement that they wish to have before the LSNARP at the time of the meeting should provide that statement so that it is received electronically, by facsimile transmission, or by mail by one of the contacts listed above on or before Wednesday, October 6, 1999.

A number of HLW repository-related meetings and conferences are being held in the Las Vegas, Nevada area in October 1999. Nonetheless, interested persons should be aware that LSN design options will be developed based on the input from those attending this LSNARP meeting and any written statements provided by interested persons in connection with this meeting. Accordingly, all interested persons are urged to attend the October 13, 1999 meeting at which these matters will be discussed and/or to submit written statements providing their views on these matters.

Dated: September 9, 1999


Andrew L. Bates
Advisory Committee Management
Officer