

**NRC Entry in Section II: Highlights of Individual Agency Internal FY 2004 E-Gov Activities, OMB FY 2004 Report to Congress on Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002**

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: <http://www.nrc.gov>

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) operates the Licensing Support Network (LSN), a portal by which parties to high-level waste repository licensing adjudication make all relevant documentary material available. It represents a novel and fundamental change to the way document discovery is conducted by making all parties' potentially relevant materials accessible well in advance of proceedings, eliminating the time-consuming process of document discovery. In Congressional testimony in early 1999, nuclear industry officials indicated the cost of adding onsite waste storage capacity at individual reactors in lieu of the Yucca Mountain, Nevada, repository being ready to receive waste shipments was \$4.3 billion over an eight year period in additional costs to the ratepayers (roughly \$537 million per year in constant dollars). LSN is vital to the agency in helping meet the Congressional goal for the hearing process to be completed in three years, thereby affording savings to industry and, ultimately, the public who pays for these storage costs in the form of higher utility prices. LSN is also expected to help reduce the time required to adjudicate and make a determination on the issuance of a construction authorization for Yucca Mountain by 50 percent or more compared to the previous most complex and politically charged reactor licensing proceeding (this system performance metric cannot be accurately measured until the license application is submitted and reviewed by the NRC).