

**ENERGY**  
**NORTHWEST**

(21)

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**DOCKET NUMBER**  
**PROPOSED RULE** 170 + 171  
(68 FR 16374)

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USNRC

May 8, 2003 (9:25AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Subject: **COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE**  
**10 CFR PARTS 170 & 171, REVISION OF FEE SCHEDULES;**  
**FEE RECOVERY FOR FY 2003 (68 FR 16374, APRIL 3, 2003)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Energy Northwest endorses the comments submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding the large increases associated with the NRC's proposed rulemaking for fee recovery in FY 2003. In particular, funding of homeland security activities from user fees is inappropriate. These fees are for activities that do not directly benefit licensees and should be funded through the general fund as part of the nation's protection of its critical infrastructure. In addition, with an effective oversight program and excellent industry performance, additional efficiencies in the use of agency resources should be attainable to reduce NRC fees. As noted in the NEI comment letter, we encourage the NRC to describe the specific activities and associated costs that provide the basis for the fees to be recovered. Without a detailed accounting of the basis for the fees, the industry cannot provide meaningful comment and the NRC is left with little incentive to pursue efficiencies and increase its fiscal responsibility.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule and are looking forward to a fair and properly funded fee structure in the final rule. If you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact me at (509) 377-4342.

Respectfully,



DW Coleman, Manager  
Performance Assessment and Regulatory Programs  
Mail Drop PE20

cc: Steve Floyd - NEI