



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 30, 2015

Mr. Ralph Knode
Chief Executive Officer
Strata Energy, Inc.
P.O. Box 2318
Gillette, WY 82717-2318

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION RESPONSE TO STRATA'S
FEBRUARY 20, 2015, LETTER

Dear Mr. Knode:

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 20, 2015, to Mr. Mark Satorius, the Executive Director for Operations at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).¹ In your correspondence, you expressed concerns regarding costs on a recent invoice from the NRC and shared three cost items in the most recent invoice that you felt were emblematic of a lack of fiscal accountability at NRC.

Fees charged to licensees have been a long-standing concern of the regulated community. We appreciate those concerns because they force us to critically review and improve the fee process, making it more transparent and efficient as well as improve the management and control of work. In the end, we must perform the work necessary to accomplish our mission while recovering our costs. In some cases, factors that affect the billing process are out of NRC's direct control and complicate the fee recovery process. The three cost items you noted in your letter provide examples of such outside forces, the details of which are presented in the Enclosure. For the three cited items in your letter, a criticism may be that staff should have provided advanced notice especially given the unique situations (seemingly late charges). We accept that criticism and will ensure that we provide licensees with advance notice of any seemingly odd charges before the bills are issued.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

¹ NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML15100A033.

R. Knode

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If you have any questions, please contact John Saxton of my staff at 301-415-0697 or by e-mail at John.Saxton@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-09091
License No.: SUA-1601

Enclosure:
NRC Response to Three Items Discussed
In Strata's February 20, 2015, Letter

R. Knode

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