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NRC Amends Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees Rule for FY 2015

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has amended its regulations to reflect the licensing, inspection and annual fees it will charge its applicants and licensees for fiscal year (FY) 2015.

The final fee rule, published June 30 in the Federal Register, includes fees required by law to recover approximately 90 percent of the agency's budget authority. A proposed rule was published for public comment on March 23.

For FY 2015, the NRC is required to collect approximately 90 percent of its appropriation, or \$895.5 million, through fees assessed to licensees. After accounting for billing adjustments, an estimated \$888.7 million is to be recovered through fees. Approximately 36 percent of the fees will recover the cost of specific services to applicants and licensees under 10 CFR Part 170. The remaining 64 percent will be billed as annual fees under 10 CFR Part 171. By law, the NRC is required to collect all fees by Sept. 30. This money goes to the U.S. Treasury's general fund.

The final fee rule includes several changes from the NRC's final fees for FY 2014. The hourly rate decreases 4 percent, from \$279 to \$268 for FY 2015, and fees charged under 10 CFR Part 170 have been updated accordingly. Annual fees for FY 2015 decrease by 3.8 percent over last year for operating reactors, 0.4 percent for spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning, and 1.2 percent for research and test reactors.

The NRC estimates the FY 2015 annual fees will be paid by licensees of 99 operating commercial power reactors, 4 research and test reactors, 23 spent nuclear fuel storage and decommissioning reactor facilities, 10 fuel cycle facilities, 12 uranium recovery facilities and approximately 3,000 nuclear materials licensees.