


Public Meeting on the Request for Information on Fees Development and Communications

April 13, 2016
3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.



Establishing Ground Rules for the Meeting

Lisa Clark
Meeting Facilitator



Request for Information on Fees Development and Communications

Michele Kaplan
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Background

- Each year, the NRC determines its hourly, annual, and flat fees via the rulemaking process.
- The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is now undertaking an effort to:
 - Simplify how the NRC calculates fees
 - Improve transparency
 - Improve timeliness of communications of fee changes
- As part of that effort, we are requesting information from the public on issues related to the development and communication of agency fees (81 FR 15352; March 22, 2016).

Goal

- The focus of this information-gathering effort is to obtain information for us to consider when evaluating possible changes to how we develop our fees.
- Potential improvements identified during this activity may be implemented in a variety of ways, including during the development of future annual fee rules or by making additional information available on our website.



Particular Areas of Focus

The Federal Register Notice that we issued on March 22, 2016, asks the following questions:

1. What are some specific ways that the NRC can improve the public's understanding of its fees and how those fees relate to the agency's budget?
2. What are some specific improvements that could be made to the fee-related work papers or forms?
3. How can the NRC improve its explanation of any changes to the annual fees or hourly rates in the annual fee rule?
4. What additional information can the NRC provide along with the proposed fee rule and work papers to help explain how the NRC determines its fees?

Particular Areas of Focus, continued

5. Given the statutory requirement to base the NRC fees on the annual appropriation enacted by Congress, are there any ways that the NRC can improve the timeliness of completing the annual fee rule or the communication of fee changes?
6. Are there activities that the NRC should convert from fee-billable to non-fee-billable (or vice versa) and why?
7. Are there activities or fee classes that are more suited to flat fees rather than hourly fees?
8. Are the current fee classes and categories appropriately defined?
9. Is there general information that the NRC can add to its public website that would increase understanding of our fee development and invoicing processes?

Conclusion

- In addition to the specific questions listed above, we would welcome input on other issues related to fee development and transparency.
- Responses to the Request for Information are requested by May 6, 2016.
- We plan to complete a Commission paper by August 15, 2016. The paper will contain recommendations for potential improvements.



Questions and Answers with External Participants



Public Comments Submission



Submit Comments for Request for Information

- Submit comments by May 6, 2016
- Docket No. NRC-2016-0056
- Federal Rulemaking Web site:
 - <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Mail information and comments:
 - Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration
Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Meeting Adjourned

