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NRC to Amend Regulations to Establish Separate Fees for Small Modular Reactors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to establish a [separate fee structure](#) for light-water [small modular reactors](#) (SMRs) because it anticipates that it will soon receive SMR license applications. SMRs are nuclear power plants that are significantly smaller in size than those in the current operating fleet. Under this fee structure, an SMR's annual fee will be based on how much power it is licensed to generate.

Without this separate fee structure, an SMR would have been required to pay the same annual fee as a large operating light-water reactor. The fee structure for SMRs complies with the [Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990](#), which requires that NRC fees be “fairly and equitably” allocated among its licensees.

The NRC published the [proposed rule](#), “Variable Annual Fee Structure for Small Modular Reactors,” in the *Federal Register* for public comment on Nov. 4, 2015, and held a public meeting on Nov. 16, 2015.

The final rule will become effective June 23, following today's publication of the final rule in the [Federal Register](#).