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NRC PROPOSES CHANGES IN FEE SCHEDULES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its licensing, inspection and annual fee schedules to recover approximately 100 percent of its fiscal year 1992 budget.

The proposed revisions implement the requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which requires the NRC to recover approximately 100 percent of its budget authority, less appropriations from the Nuclear Waste Fund, for fiscal years 1991 through 1995 by assessing license and annual fees. The amount to be recovered in fiscal year 1992 is \$512.5 million less the amount appropriated from the Department of Energy-administered Nuclear Waste Fund which is \$20 million.

The proposed revisions include an increase in the amount of annual fees assessed licensees operating nuclear power plants from about \$2.8 million to about \$3.2 million and increase the annual fees for other NRC licensees.

In addition, the proposed amendments would:

- 1) -- increase the agency-wide professional hourly rate, which is used to determine Part 170 licensing and inspection fees, from \$115 per hour to \$123 per hour;
- 2) -- increase the current licensing and inspection fees for all applicants and licensees by seven percent;
- 3) -- further refine the existing fee categories for import and export license applications and amendments;
- 4) -- further refine the uranium-recovery classes of licensees;
- 5) -- require licensees who wish to be considered for

exemption from annual fees to file an exemption request within 90 days from the effective date of the final rule; and

6) -- define a "nonprofit educational institution".

Written public comments on whether the Commission has properly applied the basic approach, policies and methodology for establishing fees that it adopted in 1991 to the fiscal year 1992 budget authority should be received by May 29, 1992. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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