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NRC CHANGES LICENSING FEES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is making two changes to its fee regulations--to shorten billing intervals for some license fees under Part 170 and reduce the amount of annual fees assessed to some small entities under Part 171. The change to Part 170 will improve NRC financial management. The change to Part 171 will reduce the impact of future annual fees on certain small materials licensees.

The revision to Part 170 of the Commission's regulations--fees for NRC providing individual services--will shorten the billing to quarterly intervals for reactor and fuel cycle facility licensees that are currently billed every six months. This would provide more timely cost information for licensees, improve NRC's financial management and result in all Part 170 fees being billed by NRC at least quarterly.

The revision to Part 171--annual fees to recover the balance of NRC's generic and regulatory costs not covered under Part 170--establishes a lower-tier, small-entity annual fee of \$400 for small businesses and non-profit organizations with annual gross receipts of less than \$250,000 and small governmental jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000. Maximum annual fees for all other small entities will continue to be \$1,800.

The results of these changes, which become effective on May 18, will be incorporated into the development of the fiscal year 1992 annual fees which will be published later this year.

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