

No. 92-110
Tel. 301/504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, July 23, 1992)

NRC REVISES FEE SCHEDULES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is revising its licensing, inspection and annual fee schedules to permit recovery of approximately 100 percent of its fiscal year 1992 budget.

The 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 revisions include an increase in the amount of annual fees assessed licensees operating nuclear power plants from about \$2.8 to about \$3.1 million and increase the annual fees to be paid by other NRC licensees.

In addition, the amendments:

- 1) increase the agency-wide professional hourly rate, which is used to determine Part 170 licensing and inspection fees, from \$115 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 an exemption from annual fees to file an exemption request within 90 days from the effective date of the amendments; and
- 6) define a "nonprofit educational institution".

The amendments to Parts 170 and 171 of the Commission's regulations will become effective on August 24.

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