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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC PROPOSES TO AMEND  
LICENSING, INSPECTION AND ANNUAL FEES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend the licensing, inspection and annual fees charged to its applicants and licensees.

The proposed amendments are necessary to implement the requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which mandates the NRC to recover approximately 100 percent of its budget authority--less appropriations from the Nuclear Waste Fund--for fiscal years 1991 through 1999 by assessing license and annual fees.

The Commission's budget authority for fiscal year 1995 is \$525.6 million of which about \$22 million has been appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund leaving approximately \$503.6 million to be recovered from fees. This is about \$9.4 million less than the total amount to be recovered for fiscal year 1994 and \$15.3 million less than in fiscal year 1993.

The Commission also is proposing amendments to its regulations to address concerns that have been raised about the fairness and equity of the fee recovery program and the administrative burden associated with it.

Fairness and equity concerns arise in relation to that part of the NRC's budget, approximately \$56 million in fiscal year 1995, which covers activities necessary for the NRC to carry out its responsibilities but, in most instances, are not directly related to the regulation of those licensees and applicants that pay fees. Activities in this category include, for example, the agency's international programs, statutory licensing and inspection fee exemptions for federal agencies, oversight of Agreement States and fee reductions for small entities in response to the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

One of the proposed amendments would allocate the approximately \$56 million associated with these fairness and equity concerns to all licensees based on the amount of the NRC's budget for each class of licensees.

As a result of the reduced budget amount to be recovered for fiscal year 1995 and the proposed changes to the regulations, the annual fees for a large majority of licensees would be reduced:

-- for power reactor licensees to \$2,967,000 in fiscal year 1995 from \$3,078,000 in fiscal year 1994;

-- for nonpower (research and test) reactor licensees to \$56,500 from \$62,200;

-- for low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facilities licensees who manufacture fuel for nuclear power plants to \$1,290,000 from \$1,485,000;

-- for radiographers to \$14,000 from \$19,200; and

-- for broad scope medical licensees to \$23,400 from \$32,600.

Written comments on the proposed amendments to Parts 170 and 171 of the Commission's regulations should be received by April 19. 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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