

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet: opa@nrc.gov

No. 96-20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, January 30, 1996)

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 license applicants and licensees.

The proposed amendments are necessary to implement the requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which mandates that the NRC recover approximately 100 percent of its budget authority--less appropriations from the Nuclear Waste Fund--for fiscal years 1991 through 1998 by assessing license and annual fees.

The Commission's budget authority for fiscal year 1996 is \$473.3 million of which about \$11 million has been appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund leaving approximately \$462.3 million to be recovered from fees. This is about \$41.3 million less than the total amount to be recovered for fiscal year 1995 and \$50.7 million less than in fiscal year 1994.

As a result of the reduced amount to be recovered for fiscal year 1996 and the proposed changes to the regulations, the annual fees for all licensees would be reduced:

--for power reactor licensees to \$2,747,000 in fiscal year 1996 from \$2,936,000 in fiscal year 1995;

--for nonpower (research and test) reactor licensees to \$52,900 from \$56,500;

--for high-enriched fuel facility licensees to \$2,404,000 from \$2,569,000;

--for low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facility licensees who manufacture fuel for nuclear power plants to \$1,180,000 from \$1,261,000;

--for radiographers to \$13,000 from \$13,900; and

--for broad scope medical licensees to \$21,700 from \$23,200.

The Commission's proposed amendments also include revisions to hourly rates charged for the reactor, nuclear materials and nuclear waste programs and make clear that fees would be assessed for licenses authorizing the export or import of radioactive waste. It also is proposed that annual fees of less than \$100,000 for material licensees be billed on the anniversary date of the license.

Written comments on the proposed amendments to Parts 170 and 171 of the Commission's regulations should be received by February 29. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch. The proposed amendments were published in the Federal Register on January 30.

#