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# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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## **NRC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF FY 2004 BUDGET AND MEDIA TELECONFERENCE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has submitted its budget to Congress for Fiscal Year 2004, requesting \$626.1 million for regulation of the nation's nuclear power plants and nuclear materials to protect public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

The budget includes \$53 million for homeland security activities, primarily to improve the control of radioactive material and strengthen security at NRC-licensed facilities.

To keep pace with the renewed interest in possible construction of new nuclear power plants, the budget provides \$33.5 million for new reactor initiatives that includes design and site application reviews, improvements to our regulations, and research to support staff's assessment of new technologies. It also includes \$19.7 million to review nuclear power plant license renewal applications.

The FY 2004 budget of \$626.1 million represents a \$41.1 million (approximately seven percent) increase above the current fiscal year. About 75 percent of the increase (\$31.6 million) is needed for additional homeland security and new reactor licensing activities. The remainder of the increase is for Federal pay and benefit cost increases; reactor license renewal; keeping pace with the Department of Energy's High-Level Waste program; and additional investments in the agency's information technology, and facilities.

Funding for each of the agency's strategic arenas and the Inspector General is as follows:

	<u>Million</u>
Nuclear Reactor Safety	\$305.8
Nuclear Materials Safety	\$ 71.2
Nuclear Waste Safety	\$ 70.1
International Nuclear Safety Support	\$ 5.4
Management and Support	\$166.3
Inspector General	\$ 7.3

The budget for Nuclear Reactor Safety provides resources for regulatory oversight and inspection of the 104 reactors licensed to operate, license renewal and new license activities, and research to ensure that licensees design, construct and operate civilian nuclear reactor facilities in a safe manner. The budget for Nuclear Materials Safety supports oversight and inspection of 37 fuel cycle facilities, licensing and inspection of approximately 4,900 nuclear materials licenses, and supporting research to assure safety of facilities and materials. For Nuclear Waste Safety, resources provide for high-level radioactive waste activities, oversight of spent fuel storage and transportation, and nuclear facility decommissioning, and supporting research which includes studies on spent fuel transportation casks and storage in dry casks. Resources for International Nuclear Safety Support allow the agency to continue working with foreign countries and international organizations to help enhance safe and secure civilian uses of nuclear energy, and to help deter nuclear proliferation. The budget for Management and Support covers administrative services (including rent and facilities management), personnel services, information technology, financial management, and policy support for the agency.

NRC staff will be available by teleconference to respond to media inquiries about the budget on Tuesday, February 4, at 1:00 p.m. Participants in this teleconference will need to call 1/800-638-8081 or 301-231-5539 and enter the passcode 1818# when prompted. Media questions in advance are encouraged and should be provided to NRC's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) by telephone to 301-415-8200 or by e-mail to [OPA@nrc.gov](mailto:OPA@nrc.gov).

More detailed information on the budget (NUREG 1100, Vol. 19) will be available on the web at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1100/> or may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, telephone 202-512-1800. A limited number of hard copies are available from OPA.

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