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15 FINANCIAL QUALIFICATIONS

15.1 Operating Costs

The NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) is the only source in the United States offering all neutron scattering methods coupled with modern instrumentation that is competitive with the world's best. The NIST reactor (NBSR) is the heart of the NCNR. The cost of operating the NCNR is regularly funded through the Department of Commerce by Congressional appropriation. The current replacement cost of the NCNR, including instrumentation, is estimated to exceed \$800M. The operating costs for the NCNR and the NBSR are presented in Table 15.1. The data are for fiscal years 1999 to 2003.

NCNR does not charge fees to research associates for use of the research facilities. While most access is for research, whose results are freely available to the general public, proprietary research can be performed under full cost recovery. Each year, approximately 2000 research participants from all areas of the country, and from industry, academia, and government use the facility for measurements not otherwise possible.

15.2 Decommissioning Costs

Neither NIST nor the Department of Commerce have plans to decommission the NBSR at this time. An estimate of the cost of decommissioning the NBSR was performed by Duratek, Inc. and is referenced and discussed in Chapter 17. The total estimated cost in 2003 for complete decommissioning, decontamination, and demolition costs (excluding NIST direct costs) is \$30,224,476. The NIST direct costs are estimated as \$25,900,000, for a total cost of \$56,124,476.

NIST is a federal agency, located in the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce. When operation of the NBSR is terminated, NIST will request funding for decommissioning, decontamination, and demolition.

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Table 15.1: NCNR and NBSR Operating Costs

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FY99</u>	<u>FY00</u>	<u>FY01</u>	<u>FY02</u>	<u>FY03</u>
NCNR	\$16.7M	\$19.2M	\$21.8M	\$23.2M	\$23.4M
NBSR	\$10.1M	\$10.3M	\$12.2M	\$12.6M	\$11.5M

Table 15.1 lists actual operating costs. This includes salaries, benefits, fuel, heavy water, and shipping of spent fuel.