

February 11, 2013

Ms. Katie Sweeney, General Counsel
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

This letter responds to your letter to me dated August 3, 2012, concerning licensee fees. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was not aware of your letter until you referenced it in your letter to Chairman Macfarlane dated January 7, 2013. In the August 2012 letter you identified concerns regarding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fee invoices for its uranium recovery licensees and applicants. All of your concerns involve providing licensees and applicants with a sufficient level of detail on their invoices.

As we discussed during our meeting last year, after the transition to the new accounting system in October 2010, NRC staff reached out to licensees to obtain their feedback on the layout and detail of fee invoices. Based upon the feedback provided to the NRC, a new invoice format was finalized and put into place during FY 2011. The overall goal for this new format was to balance the need to provide a sufficient level of detail without causing an undue burden for NRC licensees by providing voluminous details in the invoices. The NRC has received favorable feedback from some of its licensees on the new format. We regret that your concerns were not addressed through these changes.

The NRC is interested in improving the quality of its fee invoices provided to all its licensees and applicants. Our experience with other licensees and applicants has shown that NRC fees invoices can be tailored to meet industry needs when coordinated communications occur between the licensee or applicant, the NRC Program Office, and NRC Office of the Chief Financial Officer. My office will coordinate with the NRC Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs to include an agenda item on licensee fee invoices during a planned meeting between the NRC and the National Mining Association.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Mr. Seth Coplin at Seth.Coplin@nrc.gov or (301) 415-7554.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. E. Dyer
Chief Financial Officer

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Chief Financial Officer

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