



# NRC NEWS

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## NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON FY 2013 PROPOSED FEE RULE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comments on proposed changes to its regulations for the licensing, inspection and annual fees it charges applicants and licensees for fiscal year (FY) 2013. The proposed fee rule, published today in the *Federal Register*, includes fees required by law to recover approximately 90 percent of the agency's budget authority.

The NRC is operating under a Continuing Resolution set to expire on March 27. Based on the FY 2013 budget submitted to the Congress, the NRC's required fee recovery amount is approximately \$924.8 million, an increase of 1.7 percent from FY 2012. Approximately 40 percent of the fees ([10 CFR Part 170](#)) will be billed for specific services to recover the cost of special benefits to identifiable applicants and licensees and the remaining 60 percent will be billed as annual fees ([10 CFR Part 171](#)). By law, the NRC is required to collect all fees by Sept. 30, 2013.

The proposed rule includes several changes. First, the NRC is proposing to change the current hourly rate of \$274 to \$277 for FY 2013, an increase of 1.1 percent. This increase in hourly rate is a result of an increased agency direct budgetary resource for FY 2013. Second, the NRC would revise the flat license application fees in 10 CFR Parts 170.21 and 170.31 to reflect the new hourly rate. Finally, the FY 2013 proposed annual fees would increase for spent fuel storage facilities, research and test reactors, fuel facilities, most material users, and uranium recovery facilities, while annual fees would decrease for operating reactors and U.S. Department of Energy transportation activities.

The NRC is continuing its efforts to keep its fees as low as possible by ensuring its programs are conducted efficiently and effectively, and requesting from Congress only the resources necessary to protect people and the environment.

Comments on the proposed rule are due by April 8 and may be submitted through the federal government's rulemaking website at <http://www.regulations.gov> using Docket ID NRC-2012-0211 or by e-mail to [Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov](mailto:Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov). They may also be mailed to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

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