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NRC Proposes to Amend the Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees Rule

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission seeks public comments on proposed changes to its regulations for the licensing, inspection, and annual fees it charges applicants and licensees for fiscal year (FY) 2014. 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.

For the FY 2014 proposed fee rule, the NRC's estimated required fee recovery amount is approximately \$930.7 million, an increase of 7.7 percent from FY 2013. Approximately 35 percent of the fees would recover the cost of specific services to identifiable applicants and licensees under 10 CFR Part 170. The remaining 65 percent would be billed as annual fees under 10 CFR Part 171. By law, the NRC is required to collect all fees by September 30, 2014.

The proposed rule includes several changes. First, the NRC is proposing to raise the current hourly rate from \$272 to \$279 for FY 2014, an increase of 2.7 percent from FY 2013. Second, the NRC would revise the flat rate license application fees in 10 CFR 170.21 and 170.31 to reflect the new hourly rate. Finally, the FY 2014 proposed annual fees would increase for operating reactors, research and test reactors, materials users, and uranium recovery facilities while annual fees would decrease for others, including spent fuel storage facilities and fuel facilities. The increases reflected in the proposed fee rule are the result of increased budgetary resources provided by Congress for FY 2014 compared to FY 2013.

Comments on the proposed rule are due by May 14, and may be submitted through the federal rulemaking website at www.regulations.gov, using Docket ID NRC-2013-0276, or by e-mail to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov. They may also be mailed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.