



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

October 5, 2015

Mr. Joseph E. Pollock
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Pollock:

I am responding to your letter of September 16, 2015, providing your comments and analyses on the final Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Annual Fee Rule and its impact on industry. I want to thank you specifically for your analyses related to fuel facilities and uranium recovery. We recognize the unique challenges of these license categories and I, and my staff, have benefitted from our discussions with you.

I appreciate your feedback as the NRC continues to streamline our operations and right-size the agency in response to our changing regulatory environment. We are currently implementing the recommendations from our Project AIM 2020 study and are confident that these actions will support our goal to improve the efficiency of our internal processes and reduce corporate support requirements. I am open to continuing our engagements on efficiency recommendations on which we can agree. In addition, the NRC is aware of the recent increases in fees for fuel cycle facilities and is taking actions to address it by reducing our resources budgeted to match reduced expected workloads. The decisions implemented will be risk informed so that safety and security are not compromised.

The NRC is also continually evaluating our fee setting process to determine changes that need to be made to increase efficiency, transparency and accountability. In FY 2015, we have made considerable improvements to our publicly accessible work papers in response to requests from licensees. In April 2015, we held a public meeting to provide a forum for our stakeholders to discuss and understand the changes in the FY 2015 Fee Rule. We also held a conference call with Nuclear Energy Institute staff in August 2015 to discuss changes in the fees charged for uranium recovery and fuel cycle facilities and then continued the discussion in my meeting with you on September 22, 2015. As we implement our planned improvements, we will engage your staff so that the changes are transparent and effective in supporting a fair and equitable fee structure.

I thank you for your letter and look forward to a continued dialog as we move towards achieving these important goals. Please contact Ms. Michele Kaplan, of my staff, at (301) 415-5256, with any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Maureen E. Wylie
Chief Financial Officer

cc. V. McCree, EDO
F. Brown, OEDO
C. Haney, NMSS
M. Bailey, NMSS
A. Persinko, NMSS

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Maureen E. Wylie
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