

DOCKET NUMBER PR 170
PROPOSED RULE

15

ADVANCED NUCLEAR FUELS CORPORATION (54 FR 49763)

DOCKETED
USNRC

5101 HORN RAPIDS ROAD, PO BOX 130, RICHLAND, WA 99352-0130
TEL: 375-8100 TELEX: 15-2678

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
90 JAN 30 A11:31

January 17, 1990
CWM:90:015

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Docketing and Service Branch
Secretary of the Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

REVISION OF FEE SCHEDULES:
RADIOISOTOPE LICENSES AND TOPICAL REPORTS

Advanced Nuclear Fuels Corporation (ANF) has reviewed the proposed rule on revision of fee schedules and related topics which was published in the Federal Register in Vol. 54, No. 230, December 1, 1989 (p. 49763). Our comments are given below.

ANF is a fabricator and supplier of low-enriched uranium reactor fuels and related services. ANF is concerned with those sections of 10 CFR Part 170 which cover fees for license renewal, routine inspections, and for the reviews of topical reports needed to support the operation of reactors containing ANF designed fuel.

The proposed rule contains a modification in fee schedule which is of interest to ANF. This is the reimposition of a fee ceiling for reviews of topical reports. The proposed rule also includes a request that bills in excess of \$5,000 be paid by electronic fund transfer. ANF endorses the reimposition of a fee ceiling and the use of electronic fund transfers for payment of fees.

We are a particularly strong supporter of the reimposition of a ceiling on topical report reviews. As noted in the Supplementary Information (Column 1, paragraph 3 of p. 49765), there has been a significant reduction in the number of topical reports submitted for NRC review since the previous ceiling was removed (53 FR, 52632, December 29, 1988). We believe that the open-ended fee for NRC reviews can discourage the submittal of topical reports for NRC review and thereby inhibit the development of U.S. fuel and reactor technology. The development of better technology provides increased understanding of fuel and reactor design and performance. Better understanding enables the industry and the NRC to better identify and focus resources on the issues that are potential safety concerns.

9002010024 900117
PDR PR
170 54FR49763 PDR

DS10

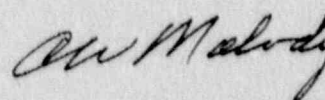
The reimposition of the ceiling should also encourage more generic reviews of topical items by the NRC which will allow a more efficient use of NRC resources. A generic review can allow the NRC to evaluate the plant-by-plant implementations with less resources, thereby providing a net reduction in the total NRC resources required.

We also agree that the amount of the proposed ceiling of \$50,000 per topical report review is appropriate.

To summarize, ANF believes the use of electronic fund transfers for payment of fees is beneficial. We particularly endorse the reimposition of a fee ceiling for NRC reviews of topical reports.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



C. W. Malody, Manager
Regulatory Commission

jrs