



NRC NEWS

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NRC Proposes to Amend Annual Fees Regulations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on proposed changes to its regulations for the licensing, inspection, special project, and annual fees it would charge applicants and licensees for fiscal year 2020.

The [proposed rule](#), published today in the *Federal Register*, includes fees required by law to recover approximately 90 percent of the agency's annual budget authority. The total budget enacted for the NRC in FY 2020 is approximately \$855.6 million, a decrease of \$55.4 million from FY 2019.

After accounting for fee-recovery exclusions, fee-relief activities, and net billing adjustments, the NRC must recover approximately \$728.5 million in fees in FY 2020. Approximately \$230.6 million will be recovered through fees for service under 10 CFR Part 170, and approximately \$497.9 million will be recovered through annual fees under 10 CFR Part 171.

Proposed annual fees would decrease by 26 percent on average for fuel facilities; 3.9 percent for research and test reactors; 2.9 percent for operating power reactors; 1.7 percent for the Department of Energy Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Program; and between 1 percent and 7 percent for materials users. Proposed annual fees would increase by 13.2 percent for spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning and 0.6 percent for DOE transportation activities. The proposed annual fees would remain unchanged for the non-DOE uranium recovery licensee.

The proposed rule also includes several other changes affecting licensees and applicants. First, the NRC proposes to increase the hourly rate from \$278 in FY 2019 to \$279 for FY 2020. Second, the NRC proposes to revise the flat rate license application fees in Part 170.21 and Part 170.31 to reflect the new hourly rate.

The *Federal Register* [notice](#) includes detailed instructions on how to submit written comments on the proposed fee rule. Comments will be accepted through March 19, 2020.