

University of Cincinnati



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

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 170 & 171
(59FR 24065)

Sir/Madam:

With this letter the University of Cincinnati reiterates its concerns and disagreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) policies and rates for assessing fees for the human-use of radioactive materials. One of the major concerns of the University of Cincinnati (and the general public) today is the cost of health care. The fees assessed for the human-use of radioactive materials and the fee increases directly affect the cost of health care as it applies to Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology.

In August 1991, annual, application, renewal, amendment and inspection fees were initiated for licensees approved to use byproduct, source or special nuclear material for human-use. At the time the fees were first initiated the fees for broad scope licensees were:

Annual fee (\$8,400 + \$1,500 surcharge)	=	\$ 9,900
Application	=	\$ 2,300
Renewal	=	\$ 2,000
Amendment	=	\$ 360
Routine Inspection	=	\$ 1,600
Non-routine Inspection	=	\$ 1,800

On May 10, 1994 the NRC proposed the fees to be:

Annual fee (\$30,900 + \$1,870 surcharge)	=	\$32,570
Application	=	\$ 2,700
Renewal	=	\$ 3,500
Amendment	=	\$ 500
Inspections (routine/non-routine)	=	\$ 8,700

Although we recognize that the fee increases for the last year are the smallest ever, the increase over the last 4 years ranges from 518% for inspection fees, and 329% for annual fees to 138% for amendment fees.

The fees and their substantial increases have a significant effect on the cost of health care at our large medical institution. Associated with the University of Cincinnati's broad scope license

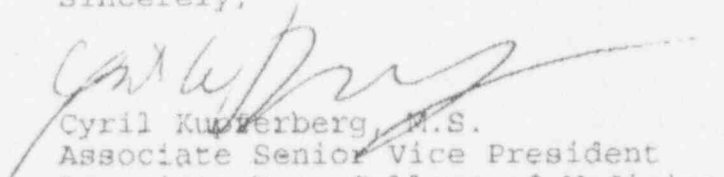
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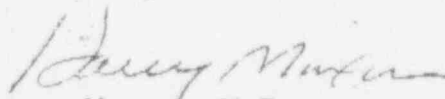
are two major regional referral hospitals (University Hospital and Childrens Hospital).

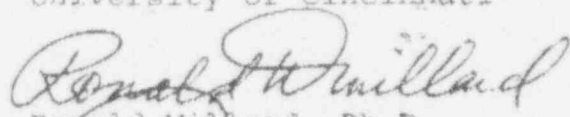
Because the institution is a large broad scope licensee, the University can expect the NRC to perform an inspection annually. It would not be unexpected for the University to submit at least one amendment each year and renewals are required every 5 years; therefore, using the fees schedule proposed by the NRC on May 10, 1994 the annual cost for the University to maintain its NRC license, as it pertains to the human-use of radioactive material, is \$42,470.00. Because we are a large medical licensee, the cost can be distributed over a large number of patients. But even distributing the licensing costs between two hospitals with large case loads the cost per procedure is \$4.00 to \$5.00 (using the May 10, 1994 proposed fees) and this per procedure cost is a substantial increase (i.e., ~400%) from the \$1.00 to \$1.50 per procedure cost associated with licensing fees when they were first initiated in August 1991.


Thank you for considering our opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,


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