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NRC Amends Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees for FY 2020

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations for the licensing, inspection, special projects, and annual fees it will charge applicants and licensees for fiscal year 2020.

The FY 2020 [final fee rule](#), published today in the *Federal Register*, includes fees required by law to recover approximately 90 percent of the agency's annual budget authority. A [proposed rule](#) was published for public comment on Feb. 18, 2020.

For FY 2020, the NRC's required fee recovery amount, after accounting for fee-recovery exclusions, fee-relief activities, and net billing adjustments is \$728.1 million. Approximately \$220.2 million will be recovered through fees for services, and approximately \$507.9 million will be recovered through annual fees.

Compared to FY 2019, the FY 2020 annual fees are decreasing for fuel facilities; research and test reactors; operating power reactors; U.S. Department of Energy Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Program; DOE transportation activities; and for materials licensees. Annual fees are increasing for spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning. Annual fees remain unchanged for the non-DOE uranium recovery licensee.

The FY 2020 final fee rule also includes several other changes affecting licensees and applicants. First, the NRC has increased the hourly rate from \$278 in FY 2019 to \$279 for FY 2020. Second, the NRC has revised flat rate license application fees to reflect the new hourly rate.

The NRC estimates that the FY 2020 annual fees will be paid by licensees of 95 operating commercial power reactors, four research and test reactors, 122 spent nuclear fuel storage and decommissioning reactor facilities, seven fuel cycle facilities, one uranium recovery facility, and approximately 2,500 nuclear materials licensees.

Additionally, the Commission has authorized a deferral of billing of annual fees and fees for services for the 90-day period of April through June 2020. This includes all annual fees that would have come due during the 90-day period and fees for services that would have been billed in April for services rendered January through March 2020. These deferred fees will be billed in July 2020. The NRC took this action to help mitigate the financial impacts and economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.