Briefing on Fee Process

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Introduction

- We commend agency efforts to address stakeholder concerns with the NRC budget and fee recovery processes
- Fee recovery has been a longstanding concern to the industry – even more so today given the current economic environment
- NRC fee process concerns must be addressed through a combination of administrative, policy, and legislative actions

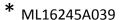
Administrative Actions

- SECY-16-0097 identifies fourteen administrative change to be implemented in fiscal year 2017
 - Actions are generally low impact changes
- Additional administrative changes identified for future consideration (fiscal year 2018 and beyond)
 - Includes changes that would have greater impact on management and communication of fees and budget
 - We encourage the acceleration of these changes where possible



Policy Recommendations

- SECY-16-0097 identifies four policy issues and requests Commission approval for further study
 - 1. Modify the calculation of the annual fee based on the size of the licensed facility
 - 2. Charge operating reactors a combined 10 CFR Part 170 and Part 171 fee
 - 3. Charge a flat fee for license amendment reviews for materials program licensees
 - 4. Charge hourly fees for all contested hearing
- For reasons discussed in August 31 letter*, NEI believes proposed policy changes should not be pursued





Legislative Action

- The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended (OBRA-90) requires the NRC to recover approximately 90 percent of its budget through fees charged to licensees and applicants
- OBRA-90 limits the value that can be obtained through administrative and policy changes
- Durable reform can only be achieved through changes to fee recovery legislation, such as those proposed under S.2795, and through the continuation of efforts initiated under Project Aim