



NRC NEWS

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NRC Proposes to Amend Annual Fees for FY 2021

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment regarding the proposed changes to its regulations for the licensing, inspection, special projects, and annual fees it would charge applicants and licensees for fiscal year 2021.

This year's [proposed fee rule](#), which was published today in the *Federal Register*, reflects a total budget authority of \$844.4 million, a decrease of \$11.2 million from FY 2020.

Under the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, the NRC is required to recover approximately 100 percent of its total budget authority in FY 2021, except for specific excluded activities. NEIMA also established a new cap for operating reactor annual fees and required three sets of actions related to invoices for service fees.

After accounting for the exclusions from the fee-recovery requirement and net billing adjustments, the NRC must recover approximately \$708.8 million in fees in FY 2021. Of this amount, approximately \$185.9 million will be recovered under Part 170 fees for service and \$522.9 million through Part 171 annual fees.

Compared to FY 2020, proposed annual fees are decreasing for fuel fabrication facilities, non-power production or utilization facilities, most materials users fee categories, uranium recovery, the U.S. Department of Energy Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Program, and for DOE transportation activities. Annual fees will increase for spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning activities, operating power reactors, and some materials user fee categories. While the operating power reactors proposed annual fee is increasing in FY 2021, it does not exceed the cap established by NEIMA.

The proposed fee rule also includes several other changes affecting licensees and applicants. The NRC has increased its hourly rate from \$279 to \$288 for FY 2021 and adjusted license application fees accordingly.

The *Federal Register* notice includes detailed instructions on how to submit written comments on the proposed fee rule. Comments will be accepted through March 24.