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EO14300 Rulemaking

NRC Proposes Caps to Signal Predictability to Incentivize Industry, Spur Innovation

ROCKVILLE, Md.—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today issued a [proposed rule](#) to set fixed, accountable fee caps for new and current licensees and reduced fees for prospective applicants. This proposal will help licensees anticipate costs and reduce the risks of budget shortfalls.

“We need to cultivate accountability internally, incentivize applicants, and lower barriers for new technologies,” Chairman Ho K. Nieh said. “This rule supports innovation and aligns with the NRC’s principles of efficiency and reliability.”

As part of Executive Order 14300, “Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” these proposed changes include:

- Establishing fixed caps on service fees for licensing and other applicant-requested activities, ensuring greater financial predictability and transparency for developers.
- Improving efficiency and accountability in licensing processes by aligning fees with defined review expectations and resource planning.
- Increasing the professional hourly rate by \$18 to \$336 for FY 2026 and the reduced hourly rate \$6 to \$154—more than 50% lower than the professional rate.
- Revising annual fees across fee classes to align with workload, risk-informed program needs, and the agency’s FY 2026 budget structure.

A public meeting will be held via webcast on March 27, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm Eastern time. The [meeting notice](#) includes instructions for online attendance.

Written comments from the public will be accepted through April 13 and can be submitted via [Regulations.gov](#), under Docket ID [NRC-2023-0212](#).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.