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NRC Amends Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fee Rule for FY 2014

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has amended its regulations to reflect the licensing, inspection and annual fees it will charge its applicants and licensees for fiscal year (FY) 2014.

The final fee rule, published today in the [Federal Register](#), includes fees required by law to recover approximately 90 percent of the agency's budget authority. A proposed rule was published for public comment on April 14.

For FY 2014, the NRC is required to collect approximately 90 percent of its appropriation, or \$930.7 million, through fees assessed to licensees. After the reclassification of a fuel facility licensee and other billing adjustments, an estimated \$916.7 million is to be recovered through fees. Approximately 36 percent of the fees will recover the cost of specific services to applicants and licensees under 10 CFR Part 170. The remaining 64 percent will be billed as annual fees under 10 CFR Part 171. By law, the NRC is required to collect all fees by Sept. 30, 2014. The money goes to the U.S. Treasury's general fund.

The increases reflected in the final fee rule are largely a result of increased budgetary resources provided by Congress for FY 2014 compared to FY 2013. In addition, the final fee rule includes several changes from the NRC's final fees for FY 2013. The hourly rate increases 2.7 percent, from \$272 to \$279 for FY 2014, and fees charged under 10 CFR Part 170 have been updated accordingly. Annual fees for FY 2014 increase over last year for operating reactors, research and test reactors, most fuel facilities, material users, and uranium recovery facilities, while annual fees decrease for spent fuel storage facilities (at operating, decommissioning and decommissioned reactor sites) and Department of Energy transportation activities.

In comparison to the proposed FY 2014 fee rule, operating reactor annual fees are slightly reduced, and some annual fees for fuel facilities have increased due to the reclassification of one fuel facility licensee.

The NRC estimates the FY 2014 annual fees will be paid by licensees of 100 operating commercial power reactors, 4 research and test reactors, 23 spent nuclear fuel storage and decommissioning reactor facilities, 10 fuel cycle facilities, 11 uranium recovery facilities and approximately 3,000 nuclear materials licensees.

(Note: The *Federal Register* notice for final fee rule incorrectly provides the accession number for accessing the "work papers" supporting the proposed rule in the NRC's ADAMS document

database. The work papers detail the allocation of the NRC's budgeted resources for each license class and how the fees are calculated. The correct ADAMS accession number for the final fee rule work papers is [ML14148A062](#). A correction will be published in the *Federal Register*.)