



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## NRC ISSUES FINAL LICENSING, INSPECTION AND ANNUAL FEES RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to reflect the licensing, inspection and annual fees it will charge its licensees and applicants in fiscal year (FY) 2007.

The agency is required by Congress to recover for the U.S. Treasury most of its annual appropriated budget through two types of fees. One is for specific NRC services, such as licensing and inspection activities; this fee is calculated using an hourly rate reflecting time spent by staff performing the service. The other is an annual fee paid by licensees, which recovers generic regulatory expenses and other costs not recovered through fees for specific services. These fees are contained in NRC regulations 10 CFR Part 170 (fees for licensing and inspection services) and 10 CFR Part 171 (annual fees). These fees are paid to the U.S. Treasury and go into the general fund.

By law, the NRC must recover through fees 90 percent of its budget for FY 2007 (Oct. 1, 2006 - Sept. 30, 2007), less the amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund for high-level waste activities and from general funds for waste-incident-to-reprocessing and generic homeland security activities. The total amount to be recovered in FY 2007 is approximately \$670.5 million, about \$45 million more than in FY 2006.

A proposed rule for the FY 2007 fees was published Feb. 2 in the *Federal Register*, while the NRC was operating under a continuing resolution at FY 2006 budget levels. The final rule, published today, includes fees based upon the agency's final FY 2007 appropriations.

The final rule establishes a single hourly rate of \$258 in Part 170 for activities in both the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program and the Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Program. This represents an increase from FY 2006 hourly rates of \$217 for the reactor program and \$214 for the materials program. The increase reflects a revised estimate of staff hours spent on specific activities, such as licensing actions, inspections and regulatory development.

Annual fees will increase for power reactor licensees, but will decrease for most other types of licensees. These changes reflect increasing agency resources for new reactor licensing and the removal of approximately \$33 million dollars from the fee base for generic homeland security activities. (Generic activities are those that support many licensees or types of licensees.)

The final FY 2007 annual fees include the following:

<u>Class/category of licenses</u>	<u>FY 2007 Annual fee</u>
Operating Power Reactors (including Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning annual fee) .....	\$4,043,000
Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning .....	\$159,000
Test and Research Reactors (Non-power Reactors) .....	\$76,300
High Enriched Uranium Fuel Facility .....	\$4,096,000
Low Enriched Uranium Fuel Facility .....	\$1,237,000
UF <sub>6</sub> Conversion Facility .....	\$811,000
Rare Earth Mills .....	\$90,200
Typical Materials Users:	
Radiographers .....	\$14,100
Well Loggers .....	\$4,400
Gauge Users (Category 3P) .....	\$2,700

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