

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Parts 170 and 171

RIN 3150-AI28

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2008

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to its applicants and licensees. The proposed amendments are necessary to implement the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA-90), as amended, which requires that the NRC recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in fiscal year (FY) 2008, less the amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF), amounts appropriated for Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR), and amounts appropriated for generic homeland security activities. Based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161), signed by the President on December 26, 2007, the NRC's required fee recovery amount for the FY 2008 budget is approximately \$779.1 million. After accounting for carryover and billing adjustments, the total amount to be billed as fees is approximately \$760.7 million.

DATES: The comment period expires March 14, 2008. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure only that comments received on or before this date will be considered. Because OBRA-90 requires that the NRC collect the FY 2008 fees by September 30, 2008, requests for extensions of the comment period will not be granted.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please include number RIN 3150-AI28 in the subject line of your comments. Comments on rulemakings submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available to the public in their entirety on the NRC rulemaking Web site. Personal information will not be removed from your comments.

Mail comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

E-mail comments to: Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov. If you do not receive a reply e-mail confirming that we have received your comments,

contact us directly at (301) 415-1677. You may also submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Address questions about this Web site to Ms. Carol Gallagher, 301-415-5905; e-mail CAG@nrc.gov.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. (Telephone 301-415-1677.)

Fax comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at (301) 415-1101.

Publicly available documents related to this rulemaking may be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), Room O1 F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee. Selected documents, including comments, may be viewed and downloaded electronically via <http://www.regulations.gov>.

To obtain additional information on the NRC's FY 2008 budget request, commenters and others may review NUREG-1100, Volume 23, "Performance Budget: Fiscal Year 2008" (February 2007), which describes the NRC's budget for FY 2008, including the activities to be performed in each program. This document is available on the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. Note, however, that NUREG-1100, Volume 23, is based on the NRC's FY 2008 budget request to Congress, and that the fees in this rulemaking are based on the NRC appropriation in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161) which includes an additional approximately \$9.5 million above the NRC's budget request. The allocation of the Public Law 110-161 budget to planned activities within each program, and to each fee class and surcharge category, is included in the publicly available work papers supporting this rulemaking.

Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC after November 1, 1999, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, the public can gain entry into the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209;

301-415-4737 or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Renu Suri, telephone 301-415-0161; Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Background

The NRC is required each year, under OBRA-90, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 2214) to recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority, less the amounts appropriated from the NWF, amounts appropriated for WIR, and amounts appropriated for generic homeland security activities ("non-fee items"), through fees to NRC licensees and applicants. The NRC receives from the general fund each year, 10 percent of its budget authority (less non-fee items) to pay for the cost of agency activities that do not provide a direct benefit to NRC licensees, such as international assistance and Agreement State activities under section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

The NRC assesses two types of fees to meet the requirements of OBRA-90, as amended. First, license and inspection fees, established in 10 CFR part 170 under the authority of the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952 (IOAA), 31 U.S.C. 9701, recover the NRC's cost of providing special benefits to identifiable applicants and licensees. Examples of the services provided by the NRC for which these fees are assessed include the review of applications for new licenses and the review of renewal applications, the review of license amendment requests, and inspections. Second, annual fees established in 10 CFR part 171 under the authority of OBRA-90, as amended, recover generic and other regulatory costs not otherwise recovered through 10 CFR part 170 fees.

Based on Public Law 110-161, the NRC's required fee recovery amount for the FY 2008 budget is approximately \$779.1 million, which is decreased by approximately \$18.4 million to account for billing adjustments (i.e. carryover from prior year, expected unpaid invoices, payments for prior year invoices), resulting in a total of

approximately \$760.7 million to be billed as fees in FY 2008.

In accordance with OBRA-90, as amended, \$29.4 million of the budgeted resources associated with generic homeland security activities are excluded from the NRC's fee base in FY 2008. This legislative provision was discussed in the NRC's FY 2006 proposed and final fee rules (71 FR 7349, February 10, 2006; 71 FR 30721, May 30, 2006). These funds cover generic activities that support an entire license fee class or classes of licensees such as rulemakings and guidance development. Under the authority of the IOAA, the NRC will continue to bill under part 170 for all licensee-specific homeland security-related services provided, including security inspections and security plan reviews.

The amount of the NRC's required fee collections is set by law, and is therefore outside the scope of this rulemaking. In FY 2008, the NRC's total fee recovery amount increased by \$109.8 million from FY 2007, mostly in response to increased workload for new reactor

licensing activities. The FY 2008 budget was allocated to the fee classes that the budgeted activities support. As such, the proposed annual fees for reactor licensees increased. The proposed annual fees for most other licensees decreased due to reductions in budgeted resources allocated to the fee classes. Another factor affecting the amount of annual fees for each fee class is the estimated collection under part 170, discussed in the Proposed Action section of this document.

II. Proposed Action

The NRC is proposing to amend its licensing, inspection, and annual fees to recover approximately 90 percent of its FY 2008 budget authority less the appropriations for non-fee items. The NRC's total budget authority for FY 2008 is \$926.1 million. The non-fee items include approximately \$29 million appropriated from the NWF, \$2 million for WIR activities, and \$29.4 million for generic homeland security activities. Based on the 90 percent fee-recovery requirement, the NRC must

recover approximately \$779.1 million in FY 2008 through part 170 licensing and inspection fees and part 171 annual fees. The amount required by law to be recovered through fees for FY 2008 is \$109.8 million more than the amount estimated for recovery in FY 2007, an increase of approximately 16.4 percent.

The FY 2008 fee recovery amount decreased by \$5 million to account for billing adjustments (i.e., for FY 2008 invoices that the NRC estimates will not be paid during the fiscal year, less payments received in FY 2008 for FY 2007 invoices). The FY 2008 fee recovery amount is also reduced by approximately \$13.3 million carryover from additional collections in FY 2007 that were unanticipated when the final FY 2007 fee rule was published. This leaves approximately \$760.7 million to be billed as fees in FY 2008 through part 170 licensing and inspection fees and part 171 annual fees.

Table I summarizes the budget and fee recovery amounts for FY 2008 (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE I.—BUDGET AND FEE RECOVERY AMOUNTS FOR FY 2008

[Dollars in millions]

Total Budget Authority	\$926.1
Less non-fee items	- 60.4
Balance	\$865.7
Fee Recovery Rate for FY 2008	× 90.0%
Total Amount to be Recovered for FY 2008	\$779.1
Less Carryover from FY 2007	- 13.3
Less Part 171 Billing Adjustments:	
Unpaid FY 2008 Invoices (estimated)	2.7
Less Payments Received in FY 2008 for Prior Year Invoices (estimated)	- 7.8
Subtotal	- 18.4
Amount to be Recovered Through Parts 170 and 171 Fees	\$760.7
Less Estimated Part 170 Fees	- 283.5
Part 171 Fee Collections Required	\$477.2

Approximately 76 percent of the \$13.3 million carryover amount was for unpredicted FY 2007 part 170 revenues for licensing and inspection services. At the time the FY 2007 final fee rule was published, NRC estimated the part 170 revenues based on billings for the prior four quarters. The rate of actual billings and revenues for the remainder of FY 2007 was higher than expected. Some of the factors contributing to the greater than estimated part 170 revenue collections were higher billings for review of design certifications and pre-application interactions related to new reactors, and materials licensing reviews billed to government agencies for the

first time. In August 2007, NRC began billing government agencies in accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (also see 71 FR 30731; May 30, 2006, for more discussion). The remainder of the \$13.3 million carryover amount resulted from higher annual fees collected in FY 2007. Some of the factors for the higher collections were timing of the effective date of the FY 2007 fee rule, and collections for prior years. The FY 2007 fee rule went into effect August 6, 2007 with reduced fee amounts for most of the materials licensees. A majority of these licensees paid their fees on their anniversary month during FY 2007, based on the FY

2006 fee schedule (which had higher fees). This resulted in higher fee collections in FY 2007. NRC also collected greater than expected annual fees due to billings for prior years which were identified in FY 2007.

For FY 2008, the \$13.3 million carryover amount will offset the fees statutorily required to be collected resulting in reductions in the annual fee for all fee classes. In addition, part 170 revenue estimates have been adjusted to reflect the current rate of billings to licensees.

The NRC estimates that in FY 2008 approximately \$283.5 million will be recovered from part 170 fees. This

represents an increase of approximately 33 percent as compared to the actual part 170 collections of \$213.7 million for FY 2007. The NRC derived the FY 2008 estimate of part 170 fee collections based on the previous four quarters of billing data for each license fee class, with adjustments to account for changes in the NRC's FY 2008 budget, as appropriate. The remaining \$477.2 million will be recovered through the part 171 annual fees in FY 2008, compared to \$465.3 million for FY 2007, an increase of approximately 2.6 percent.

The FY 2008 final fee rule will be a "major rule" as defined by the Congressional Review Act of 1996, 5 U.S.C. 801–808. Therefore, the NRC's fee schedules for FY 2008 will become effective 60 days after publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register**. The NRC will send an invoice for the amount of the annual fee to reactors, part 72 licensees, major fuel cycle facilities, and other licensees with annual fees of \$100,000 or more, upon publication of the FY 2008 final rule. For these licensees, payment is due on the effective date of the FY 2008 final rule. Because these licensees are billed quarterly, the payment due is the amount of the total FY 2008 annual fee, less payments made in the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

Materials licensees with annual fees of less than \$100,000 are billed annually. Those materials licensees whose license anniversary date during FY 2008 falls before the effective date of the FY 2008 final rule will be billed for the annual fee during the anniversary month of the license at the FY 2007 annual fee rate. Those materials licensees whose license anniversary date falls on or after the effective date of the FY 2008 final rule will be billed for the annual fee at the FY 2008 annual fee rate during the anniversary month of the license, and payment will be due on the date of the invoice.

As a matter of courtesy, the NRC plans to continue mailing the proposed fee rule to all licensees, although, as a cost saving measure, in accordance with its FY 1998 announcement, the NRC has discontinued mailing the final fee rule to all licensees. Accordingly, the NRC does not plan to routinely mail the FY

2008 final fee rule or future final fee rules to licensees.

The NRC will send the final rule to any licensee or other person upon specific request. To request a copy, contact the License Fee Team, Division of Financial Management, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, at 301–415–7554, or e-mail fees@nrc.gov. The NRC plans to publish the final fee rule no later than June 2008. In addition to publication in the **Federal Register**, the final rule will be available on the Internet at regulations.gov.

The NRC is proposing to amend 10 CFR parts 170 and 171 as discussed in Sections II.A and II.B of this document.

A. Amendments to 10 CFR Part 170: Fees for Facilities, Materials, Import and Export Licenses, and Other Regulatory Services Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended

The NRC FY 2007 fee rule established one hourly rate to recover the full cost of activities under part 170, and to use this rate to calculate "flat" application fees. The change from using two hourly rates to one hourly rate was discussed in the NRC's FY 2007 proposed and final fee rules (72 FR 5110, February 2, 2007; 72 FR 31405, June 6, 2007).

The NRC is proposing the following changes:

1. Hourly Rate

The NRC's hourly rate is used in assessing full cost fees for specific services provided, as well as flat fees for certain application reviews. The NRC is proposing to change the FY 2008 hourly rate to \$238. This rate would be applicable to all activities for which fees are assessed under §§ 170.21 and 170.31. The FY 2008 proposed hourly rate is lower than the hourly rate of \$258 in the FY 2007 final fee rule primarily due to the revised higher estimate of direct hours per FTE used in the hourly calculation. The hourly rate calculation is described in further detail in the following paragraphs.

The NRC's single hourly rate is derived by dividing the sum of recoverable budgeted resources for (1) mission direct program salaries and benefits; (2) mission indirect salaries and benefits and contract activity; and (3) agency management and support and IG, by mission direct FTE hours. The

only budgeted resources excluded from the hourly rate are those for mission direct contract activities. Although the numerator, i.e. net recoverable budget excluding contract activities, increased by 11 percent as compared with FY 2007, it is lower than the rate of increase in the denominator, i.e. mission direct FTE hours, which increased by 21 percent. This resulted in a lower hourly rate for FY 2008 as compared with FY 2007. The increase in the mission direct FTE hours in FY 2008 compared with FY 2007 is due to the revised higher estimate of direct hours per FTE (1,371 hours vs. 1,287 hours) and increase in direct FTEs (2,079 FTE vs. 1,835 FTE).

The NRC has reviewed data from its time and labor system to determine if the direct hours worked annually per direct FTE estimate requires updating for the FY 2008 fee rule. Based on this review of the most recent data available, the NRC determined that 1,371 hours is the best estimate of direct hours worked annually per direct FTE. This estimate excludes all non-mission direct hours, such as training, general administration, and leave. Because the NRC's hourly rates are calculated by dividing net recoverable budget (excluding contract activities) by the product of budgeted mission direct FTE and annual direct hours per FTE, the higher the number of direct hours per FTE used in the calculation, the lower the hourly rates.

The NRC is proposing to update its hourly rate calculation to reflect its latest estimate of direct hours per FTE to more accurately reflect the NRC's cost of providing part 170 services, which would allow the NRC to more fully recover the cost of these services through part 170 fees. The NRC believes that this is consistent with guidance provided in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–25 on recovering the full cost of services provided to identifiable recipients. The resulting lower hourly rate would result in both decreased full cost fees for licensing and inspection activities, and decreased materials flat fees for license applications.

Table II shows the results of the hourly rate calculation methodology. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE II.—FY 2008 HOURLY RATE CALCULATION

Mission Direct Program Salaries & Benefits	\$292.6M
Mission Indirect Salaries & Benefits, and Contract Activity	120.7M
Agency Management and Support, and IG	266.2M
Subtotal	\$679.5M
Less Offsetting Receipts	–0.0M
Total Budget Included in Hourly Rate	\$679.5M
Mission Direct FTEs	2,079
Professional Hourly Rate (Total Budget Included in Hourly Rate divided by Mission Direct FTE times 1,371 hours)	\$238

As shown in Table II, dividing the \$679.5 million budgeted amount (rounded) included in the hourly rate by total mission direct hours (2,079 FTE times 1,371 hours) results in an hourly rate of \$238. The hourly rate is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

2. “Flat” Application Fee Changes

The NRC is proposing to adjust the current flat application fees in §§ 170.21 and 170.31 to reflect the revised hourly rate of \$238. These flat fees are calculated by multiplying the average professional staff hours needed to process the licensing actions by the proposed professional hourly rate for FY 2008. The agency estimates the average professional staff hours needed to process licensing actions every other year as part of its biennial review of fees performed in compliance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990. This review was last performed as part of the FY 2007 fee rulemaking. The lower hourly rate of \$238 is the main reason for the reduction in the application fees.

The amounts of the materials licensing flat fees are rounded so that the fees would be convenient to the user and the effects of rounding would be “*de minimis*.” Fees under \$1,000 are rounded to the nearest \$10, fees that are greater than \$1,000 but less than \$100,000 are rounded to the nearest \$100, and fees that are greater than \$100,000 are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

The proposed licensing flat fees are applicable for fee categories K.1. through K.5. of § 170.21, and fee categories 1.C., 1.D., 2.B., 2.C., 3.A. through 3.S., 4.B. through 9.D., 10.B, 15.A. through 15.R., 16, and 17 of § 170.31. Applications filed on or after the effective date of the FY 2008 final fee rule would be subject to the revised fees in the final rule.

3. Administrative Amendments

The NRC is adding program codes next to the materials users fee categories in § 170.31. When NRC receives a materials users license application, a five-digit program code number is assigned by the agency to each license

to designate the major activity or principal use authorized in the license. More than one code may apply to a given license. The fee amount for the license under the 10 CFR parts 170 and 171 is determined by the fee category which is also based on the authorized usage described on the license. To reduce the risk of misinterpretation of material uses authorized in the license while establishing a fee category, the NRC is implementing a process that links a program code directly to a fee category. Once a program code is assigned to the license, it will assist the licensee to correctly identify the fee amount(s) by looking up the program code(s) in § 170.31.

In summary, the NRC is proposing to make the following changes to 10 CFR part 170:

1. Establish revised professional hourly rate to use in assessing fees for specific services;
2. Revise the license application fees to reflect the proposed FY 2008 hourly rate; and
3. Make certain administrative changes for purposes of clarification.

B. Amendments to 10 CFR Part 171: Annual Fees for Reactor Licenses and Fuel Cycle Licenses and Materials Licenses, Including Holders of Certificates of Compliance, Registrations, and Quality Assurance Program Approvals and Government Agencies Licensed by the NRC

The NRC proposes to use its fee relief to reduce all licensees’ annual fees and make changes to the number of NRC licensees. This rulemaking also proposes to establish rebaselined annual fees based on the NRC’s FY 2008 budget in Public Law 110–161. The proposed amendments are described as follows:

1. Application of “Fee Relief”

The NRC is proposing to use its fee relief to reduce all licensees’ annual fees, based on their percent of the budget.

The NRC applies the 10 percent of its budget that is excluded from fee recovery under OBRA–90, as amended (fee relief), to offset the cost of activities which do not directly benefit current

NRC licensees. The cost of these “surcharge” activities are totaled, and then reduced by the amount of the NRC’s fee relief. Historically, any remaining surcharge cost was allocated to all licensees’ annual fees, based on their percent of the budget (i.e., over 80 percent was allocated to power reactors each year).

In FY 2008, the NRC’s fee relief exceeds the total surcharge cost by approximately \$7.5 million. In FY 2007, this fee relief exceeded the total cost by approximately \$9.8 million. The fee relief in FY 2008 is lower compared with FY 2007 primarily due to higher FY 2008 surcharge cost which includes funding of \$15 million for scholarships and fellowships. The scholarships and fellowships funding, to be administered by the NRC, is to enable students to pursue education in fields of study that constitute critical skills areas needed to sustain NRC’s regulatory mission and benefit the nuclear sector. This \$15 million funding for scholarships and fellowships does not directly benefit the existing NRC licensees. Therefore, the NRC has classified it as a surcharge activity to be offset by the fee relief.

As in FY 2007, the NRC is using the \$7.5 million fee relief to reduce all licensees’ annual fees, based on their percent of the fee recoverable budget authority. This is consistent with the existing fee methodology, in that the benefits of the NRC’s fee relief are allocated to licensees in the same manner as cost was allocated when the NRC did not receive enough fee relief to pay for surcharge activities. In FY 2008, the power reactors class of licensees will receive approximately 90 percent of the fee relief based on their share of the NRC fee recoverable budget authority.

The total budgeted resources for the NRC’s surcharge activities in FY 2008 are \$79.1 million. The NRC’s total fee relief in FY 2008 is \$86.6 million, leaving \$7.5 million in fee relief to be used to reduce all licensees’ annual fees. These values are shown in Table III (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE III.—SURCHARGE COSTS
[Dollars in millions]

Category of costs	FY 2008 budgeted costs
1. Activities not attributable to an existing NRC licensee or class of licensee:	
a. International activities	\$12.9
b. Agreement State oversight	8.8
c. Scholarships and Fellowships	15.0
2. Activities not assessed part 170 licensing and inspection fees or part 171 annual fees based on existing law or Commission policy:	
a. Fee exemption for nonprofit educational institutions	10.9
b. Costs not recovered from small entities under 10 CFR 171.16(c)	3.8
3. Activities supporting NRC operating licensees and others:	
a. Regulatory support to Agreement States	9.9
b. Generic decommissioning/reclamation (not related to the power reactor and spent fuel storage fee classes)	14.7
c. ISL rulemaking and unregistered general licensees	3.1
Total surcharge costs	79.1
Less 10 percent of NRC's FY 2008 total budget (less NWF, WIR, and generic homeland security activities)	-86.6
Fee Relief to be Allocated to All Licensees' Annual Fees	-7.5

Table IV shows how the NRC is allocating the \$7.5 million in fee relief to each license fee class (Individual amounts may not sum to totals due to rounding.) As explained previously, the NRC is allocating this fee relief to each license fee class based on the percent of the budget for that fee class compared to the NRC's total budget. The fee relief is used to partially offset the required

annual fee recovery from each fee class. Sections 171.15(d)(1) and 171.16(e) clarify that the surcharge allocated to annual fees may be negative (*i.e.*, an annual fee reduction).

Separately, the NRC has continued to allocate the low level waste (LLW) surcharge costs based on the volume of LLW disposal of certain classes of licenses. Table IV also shows the

allocation of the LLW surcharge. Because LLW activities support NRC licensees, the costs of these activities are not offset by the NRC's fee relief. For FY 2008, the LLW surcharge cost is \$2.8 million. The annual fee for the materials users fee class includes a surcharge because the LLW surcharge allocated to the fee class is greater than its allocated fee relief.

TABLE IV.—ALLOCATION OF FEE RELIEF AND LLW SURCHARGE

	LLW surcharge		Non-LLW surcharge (fee reduction)		Total
	Percent	\$M	Percent	\$M	\$M
Operating Power Reactors	74	2.1	89.7	-6.7	-4.6
Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning			2.9	-0.2	-0.2
Test and Research Reactors			0.1	0.0	0.0
Fuel Facilities	8	0.2	4.1	-0.3	-0.1
Materials Users	18	0.5	2.6	-0.2	0.3
Transportation			0.3	0.0	0.0
Rare Earth Facilities			0.0	0.0	0.0
Uranium Recovery			0.3	0.0	0.0
Total Surcharge	100	2.8	100.0	-7.5	-4.7

2. Agreement State Activities

By letter dated November 9, 2006, Governor Edward Rendell of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requested that the NRC enter into an Agreement with the State as authorized by Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The final Agreement package is before the Commission for approval and the Agreement is expected to take effect by March 31, 2008. This will result in the transfer of approximately 650 licenses from the NRC to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Note that the continuing costs of Agreement State regulatory support and oversight for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as for any other Agreement State, are recovered through the surcharge (as reduced by the 10 percent of its budget that the NRC receives in appropriations each year for these types of activities), consistent with existing policy. The budgeted resources for the regulatory infrastructure to support these types of licensees are prorated to the surcharge based on the percent of total licensees in Agreement States. The NRC proposes to update the allocation percentage in its fee

calculation to make sure that resources are allocated equitably between the NRC materials users fee class and the Agreement States surcharge category. Accordingly, in anticipation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania becoming an Agreement State, the NRC has increased the percentage of materials users regulatory infrastructure costs prorated to the surcharge category from 80 percent in FY 2007 to 82 percent in FY 2008. However, some resources associated with the materials users fee class are not prorated to the surcharge (e.g., resources for licensing and inspection activities), because these

resources are for the purpose of supporting NRC licensees only.

The number of NRC materials users licensees also has been updated to reflect the transfer of licensees to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is expected to take place effective March 31, 2008. Because of the effective date of March 31, 2008, the approximately 650 licensees transferring to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be subject to one-half of their annual fee for FY 2008. The number of materials users licensees were revised to reflect that NRC will still collect one-half of the annual fee from these licensees. Also, the single NRC rare earth licensee under fee category 2.A.(2)(c) will transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Because no other rare earth facility application is expected for FY 2008, an annual fee was not computed for fee category 2.A.(2)(c). As with other licensees transferring to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in FY 2008, this rare earth facility will pay one-half of the annual fee in effect on its anniversary date in January 2008.

This is not a substantive policy change, but rather a calculation change that will result in a more accurate estimate of the actual costs of Agreement State oversight activities. If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not become an Agreement State by the publication of the final fee rule, the NRC will adjust the calculation of the FY 2008 annual fees based on the latest information available at that time. Any changes will be discussed in the final fee rule.

3. Revised Annual Fees

The NRC is proposing to revise its annual fees in §§ 171.15 and 171.16 for FY 2008 to recover approximately 90 percent of the NRC's FY 2008 budget

authority less the non-fee amounts and the estimated amount to be recovered through part 170 fees. The part 170 estimate for this proposed rule increased by \$78.4 million from the FY 2007 fee rule based on the latest invoice data available. The total amount to be recovered through annual fees for FY 2008 is \$477.2 million. The required annual fee collection in FY 2007 was \$465.3 million.

The NRC uses one of two methods to determine the amounts of the annual fees, for each type of licensee, established in its fee rule each year. One method is "rebaselining," for which the NRC's budget is analyzed in detail and budgeted resources are allocated to fee classes and categories of licensees. The second method is the "percent change" method, for which fees are revised based on the percent change in the total budget, taking into account other adjustments such as the number of licensees and the projected revenue to be received from part 170 fees.

As explained in the FY 2006 final fee rule (71 FR 30733; May 30, 2006), the Commission has determined that the agency should proceed with a presumption in favor of rebaselining in calculating annual fees each year, and that the percent change method should be used infrequently. This is because the Commission expects that most years there will be budget and other changes that warrant the use of the rebaselining method.

Rebaselining fees results in increased annual fees compared with FY 2007 for two classes of licensees (*power reactors* and *non-power reactors*), and decreased annual fees for four classes of licensees (*spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning, fuel facilities, materials users, and transportation*). Within the uranium recovery fee class,

annual fees for the all the non DOE licensees decrease, while annual fee for the DOE increases slightly. There is no annual fee for the rare earth fee class because this NRC fee class will no longer exist in FY 2008. As discussed in Section II.B.2 of this document, "Agreement State Activities", NRC's only rare earth facility will transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when it becomes an Agreement State, expected to be effective March 31, 2008. In FY 2008, this rare earth facility will pay one-half of the annual fee in effect on its anniversary date.

The significant factors affecting the changes to the annual fee amounts as compared with FY 2007 are the increase in budgeted resources for new reactor activities, higher part 170 revenue estimate, and adjustment for higher prior year fee collections. The NRC's total fee recoverable budget, as mandated by law, is approximately \$109.8 million larger in FY 2008 as compared with FY 2007. Because much of this increase is for the additional workload demand in the area of new reactor licensing, this increase mainly affects the operating power reactors' annual fees. Other factors affecting all annual fees include the distribution of budgeted costs to the different classes of licenses (based on the specific activities NRC will perform in FY 2008), the estimated part 170 collections for the various classes of licenses, and allocation of the fee relief to all fee classes. The percentage of the NRC's budget not subject to fee recovery remained unchanged at 10 percent from FY 2007 to FY 2008.

Table V shows the rebaselined annual fees for FY 2008 for a representative list of categories of licenses. The FY 2007 fee is also shown for comparative purposes.

TABLE V.—REBASELINED ANNUAL FEES FOR FY 2008

Class/category of licenses	FY 2007 annual fee	FY 2008 annual fee
Operating Power Reactors (including Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning annual fee)	\$4,043,000	\$4,237,000
Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning	159,000	140,000
Test and Research Reactors (Non-power Reactors)	76,300	77,400
High Enriched Uranium Fuel Facility	4,096,000	3,082,000
Low Enriched Uranium Fuel Facility	1,237,000	921,000
UF ₆ Conversion Facility	811,000	604,000
Conventional Mills	18,700	10,900
Typical Materials Users:		
Radiographers	14,100	11,200
Well Loggers	4,400	3,400
Gauge Users (Category 3P)	2,700	2,100
Broad Scope Medical	29,000	23,000

The budgeted costs allocated to each class of licenses and the calculations of

the rebaselined fees are described in paragraphs a. through h. of this Section.

The work papers which support this proposed rule show in detail the

allocation of NRC's budgeted resources for each class of licenses and how the fees are calculated. The reports included in these work papers summarize the FY 2008 budgeted FTE and contract dollars allocated to each fee class and surcharge category at the planned activity and program level, and compare these allocations to those used to develop final FY 2007 fees. In FY 2008, NRC has also revised the format of the work papers to make it easier for stakeholders to find the information supporting this proposed fee rule. The sequence of the information in the work papers now matches the sequence in the proposed fee rule. In addition, a brief overview of

each of the tabs in the work papers has been added for the reader's convenience. The work papers are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at Web site address <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The work papers may also be examined at the NRC PDR located at One White Flint North, Room O-1F22, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

a. Fuel Facilities.

The FY 2008 budgeted cost to be recovered in the annual fees assessment to the fuel facility class of licenses [which includes licensees in fee categories 1.A.(1)(a), 1.A.(1)(b),

1.A.(2)(a), 1.A.(2)(b), 1.A.(2)(c), 1.E., and 2.A.(1), under § 171.16] is approximately \$14.2 million. This value is based on the full cost of budgeted resources associated with all activities that support this fee class, which is reduced by estimated part 170 collections and adjusted to reflect the net allocated fee relief (negative surcharge), allocated generic transportation resources, and carryover. The summary calculations used to derive this value are presented in Table VI for FY 2008, with FY 2007 values shown for comparison (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE VI.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR FUEL FACILITIES
[Dollars in millions]

Summary fee calculations	FY 2007 final	FY 2008 proposed
Total budgeted resources	\$32.2	\$31.5
Less estimated part 170 receipts	- 13.6	- 17.0
Net part 171 resources	18.6	14.5
Allocated generic transportation	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Allocated surcharge	- 0.2	- 0.1
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Total required annual fee recovery	18.9	14.2

The decrease in fuel facilities FY 2008 total budgeted resources allocated to this fee class compared with FY 2007 is due to lower fuel facility resources for licensing activities, higher part 170 revenue estimate, and adjustment for higher carryover. The part 170 revenue estimate for FY 2008 increased by 25 percent compared with FY 2007 due to increased billing for fuel facilities. This results in lower FY 2008 annual fees for fuel facilities in this fee rule.

The total required annual fee recovery amount is allocated to the individual fuel facility licensees based on the effort/fee determination matrix developed for the FY 1999 final fee rule (64 FR 31447; June 10, 1999). In the matrix included in the NRC publicly available work papers, licensees are grouped into categories according to their licensed activities (*i.e.*, nuclear material enrichment, processing operations, and material form) and according to the level, scope, depth of coverage, and rigor of generic regulatory programmatic effort applicable to each category from a safety and safeguards perspective. This methodology can be applied to determine fees for new licensees, current licensees, licensees in unique license situations, and certificate holders.

This methodology is adaptable to changes in the number of licensees or certificate holders, licensed or certified material and/or activities, and total programmatic resources to be recovered through annual fees. When a license or certificate is modified, it may result in a change of category for a particular fuel facility licensee as a result of the methodology used in the fuel facility effort/fee matrix. Consequently, this change may also have an effect on the fees assessed to other fuel facility licensees and certificate holders. For example, if a fuel facility licensee amends its license/certificate (*e.g.*, decommissioning or license termination) that results in it not being subject to part 171 costs applicable to the fee class, then the budgeted costs for the safety and/or safeguards components will be spread among the remaining fuel facility licensees/certificate holders.

The methodology is applied as follows. First, a fee category is assigned based on the nuclear material and activity authorized by license or certificate. Although a licensee/certificate holder may elect not to fully use a license/certificate, the license/certificate is still used as the source for determining authorized nuclear material possession and use/activity. Second, the

category and license/certificate information are used to determine where the licensee/certificate holder fits into the matrix. The matrix depicts the categorization of licensees/certificate holders by authorized material types and use/activities.

Once the structure of the matrix is established, the NRC's fuel facility project managers and regulatory analysts determine the level of effort associated with regulating each of these facilities. This is done by assigning, for each fuel facility, separate effort factors for the safety and safeguards activities associated with each type of regulatory activity. The matrix includes ten types of regulatory activities, including enrichment and scrap/waste related activities (see the work papers for the complete list). Effort factors are assigned as follows: one (low regulatory effort), five (moderate regulatory effort), and ten (high regulatory effort). These effort factors are then totaled for each fee category, so that each fee category has a total effort factor for safety activities and a total effort factor for safeguards activities.

The effort factors for the various fuel facility fee categories are summarized in Table VII. The value of the effort factors shown, as well as the percent of the total effort factor for all fuel facilities,

reflects the total regulatory effort for each fee category (not per facility). Note that the effort factors for the High Enriched Uranium Fuel fee category

have changed from FY 2007. The safety and safeguards factors increased in FY 2008 to reflect NRC's review of an amendment request by a licensee to

handle liquid UF₆ workload. Taking into account both of these changes, the total safety and safeguards effort factor change is relatively small.

TABLE VII.—EFFORT FACTORS FOR FUEL FACILITIES

Facility type (fee category)	Number of facilities	Effort factors (percent of total)	
		Safety	Safeguards
High Enriched Uranium Fuel	2	92 (35.8)	102 (53.7)
Uranium Enrichment	2	70 (27.2)	40 (21.1)
Low Enriched Uranium Fuel	3	66 (25.7)	21 (11.1)
UF ₆ Conversion	1	12 (4.7)	7 (3.7)
Limited Operations	1	8 (3.1)	3 (1.6)
Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Demonstration	1	3 (1.2)	15 (7.9)
Hot Cell	1	6 (2.3)	2 (1.1)

The budgeted resources for safety activities (\$8,211,592) are allocated to each fee category based on its percent of the total regulatory effort for safety activities. For example, if the total effort factor for safety activities for all fuel facilities is 100, and the total effort factor for safety activities for a given fee category is 10, that fee category will be allocated 10 percent of the total

budgeted resources for safety activities. Similarly, the budgeted resources for safeguards activities (\$6,070,827) are allocated to each fee category based on its percent of the total regulatory effort for safeguards activities. The fuel facility fee class' portion of the fee relief (negative surcharge of \$81,517) and the billing adjustment (a fee reduction in FY 2008 of \$755,676) is allocated to each

fee category based on its percent of the total regulatory effort for both safety and safeguards activities. The annual fee per licensee is then calculated by dividing the total allocated budgeted resources for the fee category by the number of licensees in that fee category as summarized in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.—ANNUAL FEES FOR FUEL FACILITIES

Facility type (fee category)	FY 2008 annual fee
High Enriched Uranium Fuel	\$3,082,000
Uranium Enrichment	1,747,000
Low Enriched Uranium	921,000
UF ₆ Conversion	604,000
Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Demonstration	572,000
Limited Operations Facility	349,000
Hot Cell (and others)	254,000

The NRC does not expect to authorize operation of any new uranium enrichment facility in FY 2008. The annual fee applicable to any type of new uranium enrichment facility is the annual fee in § 171.16, fee category 1.E., Uranium Enrichment, unless the NRC

establishes a new fee category for the facility in a subsequent rulemaking.

b. Uranium Recovery Facilities

The total FY 2008 budgeted cost to be recovered through annual fees assessed to the uranium recovery class [which includes licensees in fee categories

2.A.(2)(a), 2.A.(2)(b), 2.A.(3), 2.A.(4), 2.A.(5) and 18.B., under § 171.16], is approximately \$0.66 million. The derivation of this value is shown in Table IX, with FY 2007 values shown for comparison purposes. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE IX.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITIES

[Dollars in millions]

Summary fee calculations	FY 2007 final	FY 2008 proposed
Total budgeted resources	\$1.32	\$1.65
Less estimated part 170 receipts	-0.61	-0.94
Net part 171 resources	0.71	0.71
Allocated generic transportation	+ N/A	+ N/A
Allocated surcharge	-0.02	-0.02
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+0.00	-0.04
Total required annual fee recovery	0.69	0.66

The decrease in the total required annual fee recovery is mainly due to higher part 170 revenue estimates compared with FY 2007 partially offset by an increase in uranium recovery licensing and inspection resources. The budget resources increased to support licensing work for new uranium recovery facilities and to improve regulatory framework for in-situ leach (ISL) facilities. In FY 2008, more of the total resources, surcharge, and the billing for this fee class were allocated to the non-Department of Energy (DOE) licensees, as discussed further in this document. This change in the distribution of uranium recovery fee class resources between non-DOE uranium recovery facilities and DOE resulted in an increase in annual fee for the DOE compared to the decrease in annual fee for non-DOE facilities.

Of the required annual fee collections, \$596,000 (rounded) is assessed to DOE's Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) under fee category 18.B. The remaining \$61,000

(rounded) will be recovered through annual fees assessed to the other licensees in this fee class (i.e., conventional mills, in-situ leach solution mining facilities), 11e.(2) mill tailings disposal facilities (incidental to existing tailings sites), and a uranium water treatment facility.

In the FY 2002 final fee rule (67 FR 42611; June 24, 2002), the NRC developed a fee recovery methodology for the uranium recovery fee class that would allocate the total annual fee amount for this fee class, less the amounts specifically budgeted for Title I activities, equally between DOE (for its UMTRCA Title I and Title II licensees) and the other licensees in this fee class. In the FY 2007 final rule (72 FR 31414; June 6, 2007), the NRC changed this methodology to allocate 45 percent of the total annual fee amount, less the amounts specifically budgeted for Title I activities, to DOE's UMTRCA annual fee and 55 percent to the other licensees in this fee class. Based on updated information, NRC is changing this

allocation percentage in FY 2008. In FY 2008, 40 percent of the total annual fee amount of \$672,970, less \$555,546 specifically budgeted for Title I activities, is allocated to DOE's UMTRCA facilities. The remaining 60 percent of the total annual fee (less the amounts specifically budgeted for Title I activities) is allocated to other licensees. The reduction in resources for licensing the DOE is based on the reduced effort expended for DOE UMTRCA.

This results in an annual fee being assessed to DOE to recover the costs specifically budgeted for NRC's Title I activities plus 40 percent of the remaining annual fee amount, including the surcharge and generic/other costs, for the uranium recovery class. The remaining 60 percent of the surcharge and generic/other costs are assessed to the other NRC licensees in this fee class that are subject to annual fees. The costs to be recovered through annual fees assessed to the uranium recovery class are shown in Table X.

TABLE X.—COSTS RECOVERED THROUGH ANNUAL FEES; URANIUM RECOVERY FEE CLASS

DOE Annual Fee Amount UMTRCA Title I and Title II general licenses:	
UMTRCA Title I budgeted costs	\$555,546
40 percent of generic/other uranium recovery budgeted costs	46,970
40 percent of uranium recovery surcharge	-6,280
Total Annual Fee Amount for DOE (rounded)	\$596,000
Annual Fee Amount for Other Uranium Recovery Licenses:	
60 percent of generic/other uranium recovery budgeted costs less the amounts specifically budgeted for Title I activities	70,454
60 percent of uranium recovery surcharge	-9,420
Total Annual Fee Amount for Other Uranium Recovery Licenses	61,034

The NRC will continue to use a matrix (which is included in the supporting work papers) to determine the level of effort associated with regulating the different (non-DOE) licensees in this fee class. The weights derived in this matrix are used to allocate the approximately \$61,000 annual fee amount to these licensees. The use of this uranium recovery annual fee matrix was established in the FY 1995 final fee rule (60 FR 32217; June 20, 1995). The FY 2008 matrix is described as follows.

First, the methodology identifies the categories of licenses included in this fee class (besides DOE). In FY 2008, these categories are conventional uranium mills (Class I facilities), uranium solution mining facilities (Class II facilities), mill tailings disposal facilities (11e.(2) disposal facilities), and uranium water treatment facilities. The uranium water treatment facility fee category in the uranium recovery fee

class was created in FY 2007 (72 FR 31413; June 6, 2007).

Second, the matrix identifies the types of operating activities that support these licensees. In FY 2008, the activities related to generic decommissioning/reclamation are not included in the matrix, because generic decommissioning/reclamation activities are included in the surcharge, and therefore need not be a factor in determining annual fees. The activities included in the FY 2008 matrix are 'operations,' 'waste operations,' and 'groundwater remediation.' The relative weight of each type of activity is then determined, based on the regulatory resources associated with each activity. The 'operations,' 'waste operations,' and 'groundwater remediation' activities have weights of 10, 5, and 10, respectively, in the FY 2008 matrix.

Once the structure of the matrix is established, the NRC's uranium

recovery project managers and regulatory analysts determine the level of effort associated with regulating each of these facilities. This is done by assigning, for each fee category, separate effort factors for each type of regulatory activity in the matrix. Effort factors are assigned as follows: one (low regulatory effort), five (moderate regulatory effort), and ten (high regulatory effort). These effort factors are first multiplied by the relative weight assigned to each activity (described previously). Total effort factors by fee category, and per licensee in each fee category, are then calculated. These effort factors thus reflect the relative regulatory effort associated with each licensee and fee category.

The effort factors per licensee and per fee category, for each of the non-DOE fee categories included in the uranium recovery fee class, are as follows:

TABLE XI.—EFFORT FACTORS FOR URANIUM RECOVERY LICENSES

Fee Category	Number of licensees	Effort factor per licensee	Total effort factor	
			Value	Percent total
Class I (conventional mills)	1	75	75	18
Class II (solution mining)	3	75	225	54
11e.(2) disposal incidental to existing tailings sites	1	75	75	18
Uranium water treatment	1	45	45	11

The annual fee per licensee is calculated by dividing the total allocated budgeted resources for the fee category by the number of licensees in

that fee category as summarized in Table XII. Applying these factors to the approximately \$61,000 in budgeted costs to be recovered from non-DOE

uranium recovery licensees results in the following annual fees for FY 2008:

TABLE XII.—ANNUAL FEES FOR URANIUM RECOVERY LICENSEES
[Other than DOE]

Facility type	FY 2008 annual fee
Class I (conventional mills)	\$10,900
Class II (solution mining)	10,900
11e.(2) disposal	N/A
11e.(2) disposal incidental to existing tailings sites	10,900
Uranium water treatment	6,500

Note because there are no longer any 11e.(2) disposal facilities under the NRC's regulatory jurisdiction, the NRC has not allocated any budgeted resources for these facilities, and therefore has not established an annual fee for this fee category. If NRC issues

a license for this fee category in the future, then the Commission will establish the appropriate annual fee.

c. Operating Power Reactors

The approximately \$426.1 million in budgeted costs to be recovered through

FY 2008 annual fees assessed to the power reactor class was calculated as shown in Table XIII. FY 2007 values are shown for comparison. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE XIII.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR OPERATING POWER REACTORS
[Dollars in millions]

Total budgeted resources	\$588.6	\$698.8
Less estimated part 170 receipts	- 180.7	- 252.7
Net part 171 resources	407.9	446.1
Allocated generic transportation	+1.0	+1.1
Allocated surcharge	- 6.0	- 4.6
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+1.1	- 16.5
Total required annual fee recovery	404.0	426.1

The budgeted costs to be recovered through annual fees to power reactors are divided equally among the 104 power reactors licensed to operate. This results in a FY 2008 annual fee of \$4,097,000 per reactor. Additionally, each power reactor licensed to operate would be assessed the FY 2008 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning annual fee of \$140,000. This results in a total FY 2008 annual fee of \$4,237,000 for each power reactor licensed to operate.

The annual fee for power reactors increases in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007 due to an increase in budgeted resources for a number of activities, including regulatory infrastructure for

new reactor licensing activities related to combined license applications and design certifications. This increase is partially offset by the higher estimated part 170 collections, and adjustment for higher carryover compared with FY 2007. In FY 2008, the NRC estimates an increase in part 170 collections of about 40 percent for this fee. These collections offset the required annual fee recovery amount by a total of approximately \$252.7 million. The annual fees for power reactors are presented in § 171.15.

d. Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning

For FY 2008, budgeted costs of approximately \$17.3 million for spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning are to be recovered through annual fees assessed to part 50 power reactors, and to part 72 licensees who do not hold a part 50 license. Those reactor licensees that have ceased operations and have no fuel onsite are not subject to these annual fees. Table XIV shows the calculation of this annual fee amount. FY 2007 values are shown for comparison. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE XIV.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR THE SPENT FUEL STORAGE/REACTOR DECOMMISSIONING FEE CLASS

[Dollars in millions]

Summary fee calculations	FY 2007 final	FY 2008 proposed
Total budgeted resources	\$23.9	\$22.4
Less estimated part 170 receipts	-4.2	-4.7
Net part 171 resources	19.7	17.7
Allocated generic transportation	+0.3	+0.3
Allocated surcharge	-0.4	-0.2
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+0.0	-0.5
Total required annual fee recovery	19.6	17.3

The required annual fee recovery amount is divided equally among 123 licensees, resulting in a FY 2008 annual fee of \$140,000 per licensee. The value of total budgeted resources for this fee class decreased in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007 due to a decrease in the budgeted resources for

decommissioning, higher estimated part 170 collections, and adjustment for higher carryover.

e. Test and Research Reactors (Non-power Reactors)

Approximately \$310,000 in budgeted costs is to be recovered through annual

fees assessed to the test and research reactor class of licenses for FY 2008. Table XV summarizes the annual fee calculation for test and research reactors for FY 2008. FY 2007 values are shown for comparison. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE XV.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR TEST AND RESEARCH REACTORS

[Dollars in millions]

Total budgeted resources	\$0.85	\$0.99
Less estimated part 170 receipts	-0.55	-0.66
Net part 171 resources	0.30	0.33
Allocated generic transportation	+0.01	+0.01
Allocated surcharge	-0.01	-0.01
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+0.00	-0.02
Total required annual fee recovery	0.31	0.31

This required annual fee recovery amount is divided equally among the 4 test and research reactors subject to annual fees, and results in a FY 2008 annual fee of \$77,400 for each licensee. The slight increase in annual fees from FY 2007 to FY 2008 is due to an increase in budget resources partially offset by higher part 170 revenue estimate for test and research reactors class, and adjustment for higher prior year collections. The part 170 revenue estimates for FY 2008 increased by approximately 20 percent compared with FY 2007 due to increased billing for test and research reactors, including federal facilities. The Energy Policy Act

of 2005 authorized the NRC to bill federal facilities for part 170 services.

f. Rare Earth Facilities

As discussed previously in Section II.B.2, "Agreement State Activities", NRC will no longer regulate any licensees under the Rare Earth fee class. The one licensee who has a specific license for receipt and processing of source material will be transferring to the Agreement State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to be effective March 31, 2008. In FY 2008, this rare earth facility will pay one-half of the annual fee in effect on its anniversary date in January 2008.

Because the agency does not anticipate receiving an application for a

rare earth facility this fiscal year, no budget resources were allocated to this fee class. NRC will not publish an annual fee for the fee category 2.A.(2)(c) in FY 2008.

g. Materials Users

Table XVI shows the calculation of the FY 2008 annual fee amount for materials users licensees. FY 2007 values are shown for comparison. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.) Note the following fee categories under § 171.16 are included in this fee class: 1.C., 1.D., 2.B., 2.C., 3.A. through 3.S., 4.A. through 4.C., 5.A., 5.B., 6.A., 7.A. through 7.C., 8.A., 9.A. through 9.D., 16, and 17.

TABLE XVI.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR MATERIALS USERS
[Dollars in millions]

Summary fee calculations	FY 2007 final	FY 2008 proposed
Total budgeted resources	\$25.8	\$22.8
Less estimated part 170 receipts	- 1.2	- 2.0
Net part 171 resources	24.6	20.8
Allocated generic transportation	+0.9	+1.0
Allocated surcharge	+0.3	+0.3
Billing adjustments (including carryover)	+0.0	-0.5
Total required annual fee recovery	25.9	21.6

The total required annual fees to be recovered from materials licensees decreased in FY 2008 mainly because of decreases in the budgeted resources allocated to this fee class for licensing activities, and adjustment for higher carryover. Annual fees for all fee categories within the materials users fee class decreased. The number of licensees also decreased because of the transfer of licensees to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Because the agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is expected to be effective March 31, 2008, the licensees transferring to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be subject to one-half of the annual fees.

To equitably and fairly allocate the \$21.6 million in FY 2008 budgeted costs to be recovered in annual fees assessed to the approximately 4,400 diverse materials users licensees, the NRC will continue to base the annual fees for each fee category within this class on the part 170 application fees and estimated inspection costs for each fee category. Because the application fees and inspection costs are indicative of the complexity of the license, this approach continues to provide a proxy for

allocating the generic and other regulatory costs to the diverse categories of licenses based on NRC's cost to regulate each category. This fee calculation also continues to consider the inspection frequency (priority), which is indicative of the safety risk and resulting regulatory costs associated with the categories of licenses.

The annual fee for these categories of materials users licenses is developed as follows:

$$\text{Annual fee} = \text{Constant} \times [\text{Application Fee} + (\text{Average Inspection Cost divided by Inspection Priority}) + \text{Inspection Multiplier} \times (\text{Average Inspection Cost divided by Inspection Priority}) + \text{Unique Category Costs}.$$

The constant is the multiple necessary to recover approximately \$14.9 million in general costs (including allocated generic transportation costs) and is 0.77 for FY 2008. The average inspection cost is the average inspection hours for each fee category multiplied by the hourly rate of \$238. The inspection priority is the interval between routine inspections, expressed in years. The inspection multiplier is the multiple necessary to recover approximately \$6.3

million in inspection costs, and is 1.39 for FY 2008. The unique category costs are any special costs that the NRC has budgeted for a specific category of licenses. For FY 2008, approximately \$103,000 in budgeted costs for the implementation of revised 10 CFR part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material (unique costs), has been allocated to holders of NRC human use licenses.

The annual fee to be assessed to each licensee also includes a share of the \$192,000 in fee relief allocated to the materials users fee class (see Section II.B.1., "Application of 'Fee Relief'", of this document), and for certain categories of these licensees, a share of the approximately \$509,000 in LLW surcharge costs allocated to the fee class. The annual fee for each fee category is shown in § 171.16(d).

h. Transportation

Table XVII shows the calculation of the FY 2008 generic transportation budgeted resources to be recovered through annual fees. FY 2007 values are shown for comparison. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.)

TABLE XVII.—ANNUAL FEE SUMMARY CALCULATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION
[Dollars in millions]

Summary fee calculations	FY 2007 final	FY 2008 proposed
Total budgeted resources	\$5.0	\$5.7
Less estimated part 170 receipts	- 1.2	- 1.7
Net part 171 resources	3.8	4.0

The total FY 2008 budgeted resources for generic transportation activities, including those to support DOE Certificates of Compliance (CoCs), are \$4.0 million. The budgeted resources for these activities in FY 2008 increased by 6 percent compared with FY 2007, mostly due to increased budgeted resources for licensing activities.

Generic transportation resources associated with fee-exempt entities are not included in this total. These costs are included in the appropriate surcharge category (e.g., the surcharge category for nonprofit educational institutions).

Consistent with the policy established in the NRC's FY 2006 final fee rule (71

FR 30734; May 30, 2006), the NRC will recover generic transportation costs unrelated to DOE as part of existing annual fees for license fee classes. NRC will continue to assess a separate annual fee under § 171.16, fee category 18.A., for DOE transportation activities. The CoCs for DOE decreased in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007 resulting in a

lower annual fee for DOE under fee category 18.A.

These resources are distributed to DOE (to be included in its annual fee under fee category 18.A. of § 171.16) and each license fee class based on the CoCs used by DOE and each fee class, as a proxy for the generic resources expended for each fee class. As such, the amount of the generic resources allocated is calculated by multiplying the percentage of total CoCs used by

each fee class (and DOE) by the total generic transportation resources to be recovered. In FY 2008, the generic transportation cost allocated to the other fee classes increased compared to FY 2007 due to the increase in total budgeted resources for transportation.

The distribution of these resources to the license fee classes and DOE is shown in Table XVIII. (Individual values may not sum to totals due to rounding.) The distribution is adjusted

to account for the licensees in each fee class that are fee exempt. For example, if 3 CoCs benefit the entire test and research reactor class, but only 4 of 30 test and research reactors are subject to annual fees, the number of CoCs used to determine the proportion of generic transportation resources allocated to test and research reactor annual fees equals $((4/30)*3)$, or 0.4 CoCs.

TABLE XVIII.—DISTRIBUTION OF GENERIC TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES, FY 2008

[Dollars in millions]

License fee class/DOE	Number CoCs benefiting fee class (or DOE)	Percentage of total CoCs (percent)	Allocated generic transportation resources
Total	128.0	100.0	\$4.00
DOE	31.0	24.2	1.00
Operating Power Reactors	37.0	28.9	1.15
Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning	9.0	7.0	0.28
Test and Research Reactors	0.4	0.3	0.01
Fuel Facilities	18.0	14.1	0.56
Materials Users	32.6	25.4	1.02

The NRC is proposing to continue to assess DOE an annual fee based on the part 71 CoCs it holds, and not allocate these DOE-related resources to other licensees' annual fees, because these resources specifically support DOE. Note that DOE's proposed annual fee includes a reduction for the fee relief (see Section II.B.1, "Application of 'Fee Relief'", of this document), resulting in a total annual fee of \$880,000 for FY 2008. This fee decrease from last year is primarily due to a decrease in the number of DOE CoCs.

4. Administrative Amendments

The NRC is adding program codes next to the materials users fee categories in § 171.16. When NRC receives a materials users license application, a five-digit program code number is assigned by the agency to each license to designate the major activity or principal use authorized in the license. More than one code may apply to a given license. The fee amount for the license under the 10 CFR parts 170 and 171 is determined by the fee category which is also based on the authorized usage described on the license. To reduce the risk of misinterpretation of material uses authorized in the license while establishing a fee category, the NRC is implementing a process that links a program code directly to a fee category. Once a program code is assigned to the license, it will assist the licensee to correctly identify the fee amount(s) by looking up the program code(s) in § 171.16.

The NRC is modifying the second sentence of footnote 1 in § 171.16 to clarify that the annual fee waiver will be granted if the licensed activities have permanently ceased before the beginning of the fiscal year. The reference to the last day of the prior year as the date for cessation of licensed activities has been deleted. This will improve the clarity of the sentence.

In summary, the NRC is—

1. Using the NRC's fee relief to reduce all licensees' annual fees, based on their percent of the NRC budget;
2. Revising the number of NRC licensees to reflect the expectation that Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will become an Agreement State on March 31, 2008;
3. Establishing rebaselined annual fees for FY 2008; and
4. Making certain administrative changes for purposes of clarification and consistency.

III. Plain Language

The Presidential Memorandum dated June 1, 1998, entitled, "Plain Language in Government Writing" directed that the Government's writing be in plain language. This memorandum was published on June 10, 1998 (63 FR 31883). The NRC requests comments on this proposed rule specifically with respect to the clarity and effectiveness of the language used. Comments should be sent to the address listed under the ADDRESSES heading.

IV. Voluntary Consensus Standards

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, 15 U.S.C. 3701, requires that Federal agencies use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies unless using these standards is inconsistent with applicable law or is otherwise impractical. The NRC is proposing to amend the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to its licensees and applicants as necessary to recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in FY 2008, as required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended. This action does not constitute the establishment of a standard that contains generally applicable requirements.

V. Environmental Impact: Categorical Exclusion

The NRC has determined that this proposed rule is the type of action described in categorical exclusion 10 CFR 51.22(c)(1). Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement has been prepared for the proposed rule. By its very nature, this regulatory action does not affect the environment and, therefore, no environmental justice issues are raised.

VI. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This proposed rule does not contain information collection requirements and, therefore, is not subject to the

requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

VII. Regulatory Analysis

With respect to 10 CFR part 170, this proposed rule was developed under Title V of the IOAA (31 U.S.C. 9701) and the Commission's fee guidelines. When developing these guidelines the Commission took into account guidance provided by the U.S. Supreme Court on March 4, 1974, in *National Cable Television Association, Inc. v. United States*, 415 U.S. 36 (1974) and *Federal Power Commission v. New England Power Company*, 415 U.S. 345 (1974). In these decisions, the Court held that the IOAA authorizes an agency to charge fees for special benefits rendered to identifiable persons measured by the "value to the recipient" of the agency service. The meaning of the IOAA was further clarified on December 16, 1976, by four decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia: *National Cable Television Association v. Federal Communications Commission*, 554 F.2d 1094 (D.C. Cir. 1976); *National Association of Broadcasters v. Federal Communications Commission*, 554 F.2d 1118 (D.C. Cir. 1976); *Electronic Industries Association v. Federal Communications Commission*, 554 F.2d 1109 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and *Capital Cities Communication, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, 554 F.2d 1135 (D.C. Cir. 1976). The Commission's fee guidelines were developed based on these legal decisions.

The Commission's fee guidelines were upheld on August 24, 1979, by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in *Mississippi Power and Light Co. v. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*, 601 F.2d 223 (5th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 1102 (1980). This court held that—

(1) The NRC had the authority to recover the full cost of providing services to identifiable beneficiaries;

(2) The NRC could properly assess a fee for the costs of providing routine inspections necessary to ensure a licensee's compliance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and with applicable regulations;

(3) The NRC could charge for costs incurred in conducting environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321;

(4) The NRC properly included the costs of uncontested hearings and of administrative and technical support services in the fee schedule;

(5) The NRC could assess a fee for renewing a license to operate a low-level radioactive waste burial site; and

(6) The NRC's fees were not arbitrary or capricious.

With respect to 10 CFR part 171, on November 5, 1990, the Congress passed OBRA-90, which required that, for FYs 1991 through 1995, approximately 100 percent of the NRC budget authority be recovered through the assessment of fees. OBRA-90 was subsequently amended to extend the 100 percent fee recovery requirement through FY 2000. The FY 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act (EWDAA) amended OBRA-90 to decrease the NRC's fee recovery amount by 2 percent per year beginning in FY 2001, until the fee recovery amount was 90 percent in FY 2005. The FY 2007 EWDAA extended this 90 percent fee recovery requirement for FY 2007. Section 637 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 made the 90 percent fee recovery requirement permanent beginning in FY 2007. As a result, the NRC is required to recover approximately 90 percent of its FY 2008 budget authority, less the amounts appropriated from the NWF, WIR, and generic homeland security activities through fees. To comply with this statutory requirement and in accordance with § 171.13, the NRC is publishing the amount of the FY 2008 annual fees for reactor licensees, fuel cycle licensees, materials licensees, and holders of Certificates of Compliance, registrations of sealed source and devices, and Government agencies. OBRA-90, consistent with the accompanying Conference Committee Report, and the amendments to OBRA-90, provides that—

(1) The annual fees be based on approximately 90 percent of the Commission's FY 2008 budget of \$926.1 million less the funds directly appropriated from the NWF to cover the NRC's high-level waste program and for WIR, generic homeland security activities, and less the amount of funds collected from part 170 fees;

(2) The annual fees shall, to the maximum extent practicable, have a reasonable relationship to the cost of regulatory services provided by the Commission; and

(3) The annual fees be assessed to those licensees the Commission, in its discretion, determines can fairly, equitably, and practicably contribute to their payment.

10 CFR part 171, which established annual fees for operating power reactors effective October 20, 1986 (51 FR 33224; September 18, 1986), was challenged and upheld in its entirety in *Florida Power and Light Company v. United*

States, 846 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1988), *cert. denied*, 490 U.S. 1045 (1989). Further, the NRC's FY 1991 annual fee rule methodology was upheld by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in *Allied Signal v. NRC*, 988 F.2d 146 (D.C. Cir. 1993).

VIII. Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The NRC is required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended, to recover approximately 90 percent of its FY 2008 budget authority through the assessment of user fees. This Act further requires that the NRC establish a schedule of charges that fairly and equitably allocates the aggregate amount of these charges among licensees.

This proposed rule would establish the schedules of fees that are necessary to implement the Congressional mandate for FY 2008. This rule would result in increases in the annual fees charged to certain licensees and holders of certificates, registrations, and approvals, and decreases in annual fees for others. Licensees affected by the annual fee increases and decreases include those that qualify as a small entity under NRC's size standards in 10 CFR 2.810. The Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, prepared in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 604, is included as Appendix A to this proposed rule.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996 requires all Federal agencies to prepare a written compliance guide for each rule for which the agency is required by 5 U.S.C. 604 to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis. Therefore, in compliance with the law, Attachment 1 to the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is the small entity compliance guide for FY 2008.

IX. Backfit Analysis

The NRC has determined that the backfit rule, 10 CFR 50.109, does not apply to this proposed rule and that a backfit analysis is not required for this proposed rule. The backfit analysis is not required because these amendments do not require the modification of, or additions to systems, structures, components, or the design of a facility, or the design approval or manufacturing license for a facility, or the procedures or organization required to design, construct, or operate a facility.

List of Subjects

10 CFR Part 170

Byproduct material, Import and export licenses, Intergovernmental relations, Non-payment penalties, Nuclear materials, Nuclear power plants and reactors, Source material, Special nuclear material.

10 CFR Part 171

Annual charges, Byproduct material, Holders of certificates, Registrations, Approvals, Intergovernmental relations, Non-payment penalties, Nuclear materials, Nuclear power plants and reactors, Source material, Special nuclear material.

For the reasons set out in the preamble and under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 553, the NRC is proposing to adopt the following amendments to 10 CFR parts 170 and 171.

PART 170—FEES FOR FACILITIES, MATERIALS, IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSES, AND OTHER REGULATORY SERVICES UNDER THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED

1. The authority citation for part 170 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Section 9701, Pub. L. 97–258, 96 Stat. 1051 (31 U.S.C. 9701); § 301, Pub. L. 92–314, 86 Stat. 227 (42 U.S.C. 2201w); sec. 201, Pub. L. 93–438, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5841); § 205a, Pub. L. 101–576, 104 Stat. 2842, as amended (31 U.S.C. 901–902); § 1704, 112 Stat. 2750 (44 U.S.C. 3504 note), sec. 623, Pub. L. 109–58, 119 Stat. 783, (42 U.S.C. 2201(w)); sec. 651(e), Pub. L. 109–58, 119 Stat. 806–810 (42 U.S.C. 2014, 2021, 2021(b), 2111).

2. Section 170.20 is revised to read as follows:

§ 170.20 Average cost per professional staff-hour.

* * * * *

Fees for permits, licenses, amendments, renewals, special projects, 10 CFR part 55 re-qualification and replacement examinations and tests, other required reviews, approvals, and inspections under §§ 170.21 and 170.31 will be calculated using the professional staff-hour rate of \$238 per hour.

3. In § 170.21, in the table, fee category K is revised to read as follows:

§ 170.21 Schedule of fees for production and utilization facilities, review of standard referenced design approvals, special projects, inspections and import and export licenses.

* * * * *

SCHEDULE OF FACILITY FEES

[See footnotes at end of table]

Facility categories and type of fees	Fees ^{1 2}
* * * * *	
K. Import and export licenses:	
Licenses for the import and export only of production and utilization facilities or the export only of components for production and utilization facilities issued under 10 CFR Part 110.	
1. Application for import or export of production and utilization facilities ⁴ (including reactors and other facilities) and exports of components requiring Commission and Executive Branch review, for example, actions under 10 CFR 110.40(b).	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	\$15,500
2. Application for export of reactor and other components requiring Executive Branch review only, for example, those actions under 10 CFR 110.41(a)(1)–(8).	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	9,100
3. Application for export of components requiring the assistance of the Executive Branch to obtain foreign government assurances.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	3,800
4. Application for export of facility components and equipment (examples provided in 10 CFR part 110, Appendix A, Items (5) through (9)) not requiring Commission or Executive Branch review, or obtaining foreign government assurances.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	2,400
5. Minor amendment of any active export or import license, for example, to extend the expiration date, change domestic information, or make other revisions which do not involve any substantive changes to license terms or conditions or to the type of facility or component authorized for export and therefore, do not require in-depth analysis or review or consultation with the Executive Branch, U.S. host state, or foreign government authorities.	
Minor amendment to license	720

¹ Fees will not be charged for orders related to civil penalties or other civil sanctions issued by the Commission under § 2.202 of this chapter or for amendments resulting specifically from the requirements of these orders. For orders unrelated to civil penalties or other civil sanctions, fees will be charged for any resulting licensee-specific activities not otherwise exempted from fees under this chapter. Fees will be charged for approvals issued under a specific exemption provision of the Commission's regulations under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (e.g., 10 CFR 50.12, 73.5) and any other sections in effect now or in the future, regardless of whether the approval is in the form of a license amendment, letter of approval, safety evaluation report, or other form.

² Full cost fees will be determined based on the professional staff time and appropriate contractual support services expended. For applications currently on file and for which fees are determined based on the full cost expended for the review, the professional staff hours expended for the review of the application up to the effective date of the final rule will be determined at the professional rates in effect at the time the service was provided. For those applications currently on file for which review costs have reached an applicable fee ceiling established by the June 20, 1984, and July 2, 1990, rules, but are still pending completion of the review, the cost incurred after any applicable ceiling was reached through January 29, 1989, will not be billed to the applicant. Any professional staff-hours expended above those ceilings on or after January 30, 1989, will be assessed at the applicable rates established by § 170.20, as appropriate, except for topical reports whose costs exceed \$50,000. Costs which exceed \$50,000 for any topical report, amendment, revision or supplement to a topical report completed or under review from January 30, 1989, through August 8, 1991, will not be billed to the applicant. Any professional hours expended on or after August 9, 1991, will be assessed at the applicable rate established in § 170.20.

⁴ Imports only of major components for end-use at NRC-licensed reactors are now authorized under NRC general import license.

4. In § 170.31, the table is revised to read as follows:

§ 170.31 Schedule of fees for materials licenses and other regulatory services, including inspections, and import and export licenses.

* * * * *

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS FEES

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses and type of fees ¹	Fee ^{2,3}
1. Special nuclear material:	
A. (1) Licenses for possession and use of U-235 or plutonium for fuel fabrication activities.	
(a) Strategic Special Nuclear Material (High Enriched Uranium) [Program Code(s): 21130]	Full Cost
(b) Low Enriched Uranium in Dispersible Form Used for Fabrication of Power Reactor Fuel [Program Code(s): 21210]	Full Cost
(2) All other special nuclear materials licenses not included in Category 1.A.(1) which are licensed for fuel cycle activities.	
(a) Facilities with limited operations [Program Code(s): 21310, 21320]	Full Cost
(b) Gas centrifuge enrichment demonstration facilities	Full Cost
(c) Others, including hot cell facilities	Full Cost
B. Licenses for receipt and storage of spent fuel and reactor-related Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste at an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) [Program Code(s): 23200]	Full Cost
C. Licenses for possession and use of special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in devices used in industrial measuring systems, including x-ray fluorescence analyzers. ⁴ Application [Program Code(s): 22140]	\$1,100
D. All other special nuclear material licenses, except licenses authorizing special nuclear material in unsealed form in combination that would constitute a critical quantity, as defined in § 150.11 of this chapter, for which the licensee shall pay the same fees as those under Category 1.A. ⁴ Application [Program Code(s): 22110, 22111, 22120, 22131, 22136, 22150, 22151, 22161, 22163, 22170, 23100, 23300, 23310]	2,200
E. Licenses or certificates for construction and operation of a uranium enrichment facility [Program Code(s): 21200]	Full Cost
2. Source material:	
A. (1) Licenses for possession and use of source material for refining uranium mill concentrates to uranium hexafluoride [Program Code(s): 11400]	Full Cost
(2) Licenses for possession and use of source material in recovery operations such as milling, in-situ leaching, heap-leaching, ore buying stations, ion exchange facilities and in processing of ores containing source material for extraction of metals other than uranium or thorium, including licenses authorizing the possession of byproduct waste material (tailings) from source material recovery operations, as well as licenses authorizing the possession and maintenance of a facility in a standby mode.	
(a) Class I facilities [Program Code(s): 11100]	Full Cost
(b) Class II facilities [Program Code(s): 11500]	Full Cost
(c) Other facilities [Program Code(s): 11700]	Full Cost
(3) Licenses that authorize the receipt of byproduct material, as defined in § 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act, from other persons for possession and disposal, except those licenses subject to the fees in Category 2.A.(2) or Category 2.A.(4) [Program Code(s): 11600]	Full Cost
(4) Licenses that authorize the receipt of byproduct material, as defined in § 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act, from other persons for possession and disposal incidental to the disposal of the uranium waste tailings generated by the licensee's milling operations, except those licenses subject to the fees in Category 2.A.(2).	Full Cost
(5) Licenses that authorize the possession of source material related to removal of contaminants (source material) from drinking water.	Full Cost
B. Licenses which authorize the possession, use, and/or installation of source material for shielding. Application [Program Code(s): 11210]	260
C. All other source material licenses. Application [Program Code(s): 11200, 11220, 11221, 11230, 11300, 11800, 11810]	9,400
3. Byproduct material:	
A. Licenses of broad scope for the possession and use of byproduct material issued under parts 30 and 33 of this chapter for processing or manufacturing of items containing byproduct material for commercial distribution. Application [Program Code(s): 03211, 03212, 03213]	11,200
B. Other licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under Part 30 of this chapter for processing or manufacturing of items containing byproduct material for commercial distribution. Application [Program Code(s): 03214, 03215, 22135, 22162]	4,200
C. Licenses issued under §§ 32.72 and/or 32.74 of this chapter that authorize the processing or manufacturing and distribution or redistribution of radiopharmaceuticals, generators, reagent kits, and/or sources and devices containing byproduct material. This category does not apply to licenses issued to nonprofit educational institutions whose processing or manufacturing is exempt under § 170.11(a)(4). These licenses are covered by fee Category 3.D. Application [Program Code(s): 02500, 02511, 02513]	7,400
D. Licenses and approvals issued under §§ 32.72 and/or 32.74 of this chapter authorizing distribution or redistribution of radiopharmaceuticals, generators, reagent kits, and/or sources or devices not involving processing of byproduct material. This category includes licenses issued under §§ 32.72 and/or 32.74 of this chapter to nonprofit educational institutions whose processing or manufacturing is exempt under § 170.11(a)(4). Application [Program Code(s): 02512, 02514]	4,100
E. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is not removed from its shield (self-shielded units). Application [Program Code(s): 03510, 03520]	2,700

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS FEES—Continued

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses and type of fees ¹	Fee ^{2,3}
F. Licenses for possession and use of less than 10,000 curies of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is exposed for irradiation purposes. This category also includes underwater irradiators for irradiation of materials where the source is not exposed for irradiation purposes.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03511]	5,600
G. Licenses for possession and use of 10,000 curies or more of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is exposed for irradiation purposes. This category also includes underwater irradiators for irradiation of materials where the source is not exposed for irradiation purposes.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03521]	13,300
H. Licenses issued under Subpart A of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material that require device review to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter. The category does not include specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03255]	9,700
I. Licenses issued under Subpart A of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material or quantities of byproduct material that do not require device evaluation to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter. This category does not include specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03250, 03251, 03252, 03253, 03254, 03256]	9,700
J. Licenses issued under Subpart B of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material that require sealed source and/or device review to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter. This category does not include specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03240, 03241, 03243]	1,700
K. Licenses issued under Subpart B of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material or quantities of byproduct material that do not require sealed source and/or device review to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter. This category does not include specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03242, 03244]	1,000
L. Licenses of broad scope for possession and use of byproduct material issued under parts 30 and 33 of this chapter for research and development that do not authorize commercial distribution.	
Application [Program Code(s): 01100, 01110, 01120, 03610, 03611, 03612, 03613]	9,400
M. Other licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under part 30 of this chapter for research and development that do not authorize commercial distribution.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03620]	3,300
N. Licenses that authorize services for other licensees, except:	
(1) Licenses that authorize only calibration and/or leak testing services are subject to the fees specified in fee Category 3P; and	
(2) Licenses that authorize waste disposal services are subject to the fees specified in fee Categories 4.A., 4.B., and 4.C.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03219, 03225, 03226]	6,100
O. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under part 34 of this chapter for industrial radiography operations.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03310, 03320]	4,500
P. All other specific byproduct material licenses, except those in Categories 4.A. through 9.D.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02400, 02410, 03120, 03121, 03122, 03123, 03124, 03220, 03221, 03222, 03800, 03810, 22130]	1,300
Q. Registration of a device(s) generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter.	
Registration	270
R. Possession of items or products containing radium-226 identified in 10 CFR 31.12 which exceed the number of items or limits specified in that section. ⁶	
1. Possession of quantities exceeding the number of items or limits in 10 CFR 31.12(a)(4), or (5) but less than or equal to 10 times the number of items or limits specified.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02700]	550
2. Possession of quantities exceeding 10 times the number of items or limits specified in 10 CFR 31.12(a)(4), or (5).C.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02710]	1,300
S. Licenses for production of accelerator-produced radionuclides.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03210]	7,400
4. Waste disposal and processing:	
A. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons for the purpose of contingency storage or commercial land disposal by the licensee; or licenses authorizing contingency storage of low-level radioactive waste at the site of nuclear power reactors; or licenses for receipt of waste from other persons for incineration or other treatment, packaging of resulting waste and residues, and transfer of packages to another person authorized to receive or dispose of waste material.	
[Program Code(s): 03231, 03233, 03235, 03236, 06100, 06101]	Full Cost
B. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons for the purpose of packaging or repackaging the material. The licensee will dispose of the material by transfer to another person authorized to receive or dispose of the material.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03234]	2,900

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS FEES—Continued

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses and type of fees ¹	Fee ^{2,3}
C. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of prepackaged waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons. The licensee will dispose of the material by transfer to another person authorized to receive or dispose of the material.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03232]	4,300
5. Well logging:	
A. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material, source material, and/or special nuclear material for well logging, well surveys, and tracer studies other than field flooding tracer studies.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03110, 03111, 03112]	1,600
B. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material for field flooding tracer studies.	
Licensing [Program Code(s): 03113]	Full Cost
6. Nuclear laundries:	
A. Licenses for commercial collection and laundry of items contaminated with byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03218]	19,000
7. Medical licenses:	
A. Licenses issued under parts 30, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter for human use of byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02300, 02310]	10,400
B. Licenses of broad scope issued to medical institutions or two or more physicians under parts 30, 33, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter authorizing research and development, including human use of byproduct material, except licenses for byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding when authorized on the same license.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02110]	7,400
C. Other licenses issued under parts 30, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter for human use of byproduct material, source material, and/or special nuclear material, except licenses for byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices.	
Application [Program Code(s): 02120, 02121, 02200, 02201, 02210, 02220, 02230, 02231, 02240, 22160]	2,300
8. Civil defense:	
A. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material for civil defense activities.	
Application [Program Code(s): 03710]	550
9. Device, product, or sealed source safety evaluation:	
A. Safety evaluation of devices or products containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, except reactor fuel devices, for commercial distribution.	
Application—each device	19,500
B. Safety evaluation of devices or products containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material manufactured in accordance with the unique specifications of, and for use by, a single applicant, except reactor fuel devices.	
Application—each device	19,500
C. Safety evaluation of sealed sources containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, except reactor fuel, for commercial distribution.	
Application—each source	2,700
D. Safety evaluation of sealed sources containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, manufactured in accordance with the unique specifications of, and for use by, a single applicant, except reactor fuel.	
Application—each source	910
10. Transportation of radioactive material:	
A. Evaluation of casks, packages, and shipping containers.	
1. Spent Fuel, High-Level Waste, and plutonium air packages	Full Cost
2. Other Casks	Full Cost
B. Quality assurance program approvals issued under part 71 of this chapter.	
1. Users and Fabricators.	
Application	4,400
Inspections	Full Cost
2. Users.	
Application	4,400
Inspections	Full Cost
C. Evaluation of security plans, route approvals, route surveys, and transportation security devices (including immobilization devices)	Full Cost
11. Review of standardized spent fuel facilities	Full Cost
12. Special projects:	
Including approvals, preapplication/licensing activities, and inspections	Full Cost
13. A. Spent fuel storage cask Certificate of Compliance	Full Cost
B. Inspections related to storage of spent fuel under 72.210 of this chapter	Full Cost
14. A. Byproduct, source, or special nuclear material licenses and other approvals authorizing decommissioning, decontamination, reclamation, or site restoration activities under parts 30, 40, 70, 72, and 76 of this chapter	Full Cost
B. Site-specific decommissioning activities associated with unlicensed sites, regardless of whether or not the sites have been previously licensed. Part 170 fees for these activities will not be charged until July 25, 2007	Full Cost

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS FEES—Continued

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses and type of fees ¹	Fee ^{2 3}
15. Import and Export licenses:	
Licenses issued under part 110 of this chapter for the import and export only of special nuclear material, source material, tritium and other byproduct material, and the export only of heavy water, or nuclear grade graphite (fee categories 15.A. through 15.E).	
A. Application for export or import of nuclear materials, including radioactive waste requiring Commission and Executive Branch review, for example, those actions under 10 CFR 110.40(b).	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	15,500
B. Application for export or import of nuclear material, including radioactive waste, requiring Executive Branch review, but not Commission review. This category includes applications for the export and import of radioactive waste and requires NRC to consult with domestic host state authorities, Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, etc.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	9,100
C. Application for export of nuclear material, for example, routine reloads of low enriched uranium reactor fuel and/or natural uranium source material requiring the assistance of the Executive Branch to obtain foreign government assurances.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	3,800
D. Application for export or import of nuclear material, including radioactive waste, not requiring Commission or Executive Branch review, or obtaining foreign government assurances. This category includes applications for export or import of radioactive waste where the NRC has previously authorized the export or import of the same form of waste to or from the same or similar parties located in the same country, requiring only confirmation from the receiving facility and licensing authorities that the shipments may proceed according to previously agreed understandings and procedures.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	2,400
E. Minor amendment of any active export or import license, for example, to extend the expiration date, change domestic information, or make other revisions which do not involve any substantive changes to license terms and conditions or to the type/quantity/chemical composition of the material authorized for export and therefore, do not require in-depth analysis, review, or consultations with other Executive Branch, U.S. host state, or foreign government authorities.	
Minor amendment	720
Licenses issued under part 110 of this chapter for the import and export only of Category 1 and Category 2 quantities of radioactive material listed in Appendix P to part 110 of this chapter (fee categories 15.F. through 15.R.). ⁵	
<i>Category 1 Exports:</i>	
F. Application for export of Category 1 materials involving an exceptional circumstances review under 10 CFR 110.42(e)(4).	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	15,500
G. Application for export of Category 1 materials requiring Executive Branch review, Commission review, and/or government-to-government consent.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	9,100
H. Application for export of Category 1 materials requiring Commission review and government-to-government consent.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	5,700
I. Application for export of Category 1 material requiring government-to-government consent.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	4,800
<i>Category 2 Exports:</i>	
J. Application for export of Category 2 materials involving an exceptional circumstances review under 10 CFR 110.42(e)(4).	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	15,500
K. Applications for export of Category 2 materials requiring Executive Branch review and/or Commission review.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	9,100
L. Application for the export of Category 2 materials.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	4,300
<i>Category 1 Imports:</i>	
M. Application for the import of Category 1 material requiring Commission review.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	4,500
N. Application for the import of Category 1 material.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	3,800
<i>Category 2 Imports:</i>	
O. Application for the import of Category 2 material.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	3,300
<i>Category 1 Imports with Agent and Multiple Licensees:</i>	
P. Application for the import of Category 1 material with agent and multiple licensees requiring Commission review.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	5,200
Q. Application for the import of Category 1 material with agent and multiple licensees.	
Application—new license, or amendment; or license exemption request	4,300
<i>Minor Amendments (Category 1 and 2 Export and Imports):</i>	
R. Minor amendment of any active export or import license, for example, to extend the expiration date, change domestic information, or make other revisions which do not involve any substantive changes to license terms and conditions or to the type/quantity/chemical composition of the material authorized for export and therefore, do not require in-depth analysis, review, or consultations with other Executive Branch, U.S. host state, or foreign authorities.	
Minor amendment	720
16. Reciprocity:	
Agreement State licensees who conduct activities under the reciprocity provisions of 10 CFR 150.20.	
Application	1,400
17. Master materials licenses of broad scope issued to Government agencies:	
Application	22,000

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS FEES—Continued

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses and type of fees ¹	Fee ^{2 3}
18. Department of Energy: A. Certificates of Compliance. Evaluation of casks, packages, and shipping containers (including spent fuel, high-level waste, and other casks, and plutonium air packages) B. Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) activities	Full Cost Full Cost

¹ *Types of fees*—Separate charges, as shown in the schedule, will be assessed for pre-application consultations and reviews; applications for new licenses, approvals, or license terminations; possession only licenses; issuance of new licenses and approvals; certain amendments and renewals to existing licenses and approvals; safety evaluations of sealed sources and devices; generally licensed device registrations; and certain inspections. The following guidelines apply to these charges:

(a) *Application and registration fees.* Applications for new materials licenses and export and import licenses; applications to reinstate expired, terminated, or inactive licenses except those subject to fees assessed at full costs; applications filed by Agreement State licensees to register under the general license provisions of 10 CFR 150.20; and applications for amendments to materials licenses that would place the license in a higher fee category or add a new fee category must be accompanied by the prescribed application fee for each category.

(1) Applications for licenses covering more than one fee category of special nuclear material or source material must be accompanied by the prescribed application fee for the highest fee category.

(2) Applications for new licenses that cover both byproduct material and special nuclear material in sealed sources for use in gauging devices will pay the appropriate application fee for fee Category 1.C. only.

(b) *Licensing fees.* Fees for reviews of applications for new licenses and for renewals and amendments to existing licenses, pre-application consultations and reviews of other documents submitted to NRC for review, and project manager time for fee categories subject to full cost fees, are due upon notification by the Commission in accordance with § 170.12(b).

(c) *Amendment fees.* Applications for amendments to export and import licenses must be accompanied by the prescribed amendment fee for each license affected. An application for an amendment to an export or import license or approval classified in more than one fee category must be accompanied by the prescribed amendment fee for the category affected by the amendment unless the amendment is applicable to two or more fee categories, in which case the amendment fee for the highest fee category would apply.

(d) *Inspection fees.* Inspections resulting from investigations conducted by the Office of Investigations and non-routine inspections that result from third-party allegations are not subject to fees. Inspection fees are due upon notification by the Commission in accordance with § 170.12(c).

(e) *Generally licensed device registrations under 10 CFR 31.5.* Submittals of registration information must be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

² Fees will not be charged for orders related to civil penalties or other civil sanctions issued by the Commission under 10 CFR 2.202 or for amendments resulting specifically from the requirements of these orders. For orders unrelated to civil penalties or other civil sanctions, fees will be charged for any resulting licensee-specific activities not otherwise exempted from fees under this chapter. Fees will be charged for approvals issued under a specific exemption provision of the Commission's regulations under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (e.g., 10 CFR 30.11, 40.14, 70.14, 73.5, and any other sections in effect now or in the future), regardless of whether the approval is in the form of a license amendment, letter of approval, safety evaluation report, or other form. In addition to the fee shown, an applicant may be assessed an additional fee for sealed source and device evaluations as shown in Categories 9.A. through 9.D.

³ Full cost fees will be determined based on the professional staff time multiplied by the appropriate professional hourly rate established in § 170.20 in effect at the time the service is provided, and the appropriate contractual support services expended. For applications currently on file for which review costs have reached an applicable fee ceiling established by the June 20, 1984, and July 2, 1990, rules, but are still pending completion of the review, the cost incurred after any applicable ceiling was reached through January 29, 1989, will not be billed to the applicant. Any professional staff-hours expended above those ceilings on or after January 30, 1989, will be assessed at the applicable rates established by § 170.20, as appropriate, except for topical reports whose costs exceed \$50,000. Costs which exceed \$50,000 for each topical report, amendment, revision, or supplement to a topical report completed or under review from January 30, 1989, through August 8, 1991, will not be billed to the applicant. Any professional hours expended on or after August 9, 1991, will be assessed at the applicable rate established in § 170.20.

⁴ Licensees paying fees under Categories 1.A., 1.B., and 1.E. are not subject to fees under Categories 1.C. and 1.D. for sealed sources authorized in the same license except for an application that deals only with the sealed sources authorized by the license.

⁵ For a combined import and export license application for material listed in Appendix P to part 110 of this chapter, only the higher of the two applicable fee amounts must be paid.

⁶ Persons who possess radium sources that are used for operational purposes in another fee category are not also subject to the fees in this category. (This exception does not apply if the radium sources are possessed for storage only.)

PART 171—ANNUAL FEES FOR REACTOR LICENSES AND FUEL CYCLE LICENSES AND MATERIALS LICENSES, INCLUDING HOLDERS OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE, REGISTRATIONS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM APPROVALS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LICENSED BY THE NRC

5. The authority citation for part 171 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Section 7601, Pub. L. 99–272, 100 Stat. 146, as amended by § 5601, Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1330, as amended by § 3201, Pub. L. 101–239, 103 Stat. 2132, as amended by § 6101, Pub. L. 101–508, 104 Stat. 1388, as amended by § 2903a, Pub. L. 102–486, 106 Stat. 3125 (42 U.S.C. 2213–2214), and as amended by Title IV, Pub. L. 109–103, 119 Stat. 2283 (42 U.S.C. 2214); § 301, Pub. L. 92–314, 86 Stat. 227 (42 U.S.C. 2201w); § 201, Pub. L. 93–438, 88 Stat. 1242,

as amended (42 U.S.C. 5841); § 1704, 112 Stat. 2750 (44 U.S.C. 3504 note); sec. 651(e), Pub. L. 109–58, 119 Stat. 806–810 (42 U.S.C. 2014, 2021, 2021(b), 2111).

6. In § 171.15, paragraph (b)(1), the introductory text of paragraph (b)(2), paragraph (c)(1), the introductory text of paragraphs (c)(2) and (d)(1), and paragraphs (d)(2), (d)(3), and (e), are revised to read as follows:

§ 171.15 Annual fees: Reactor licenses and independent spent fuel storage licenses.

* * * * *

(b)(1) The FY 2008 annual fee for each operating power reactor which must be collected by September 30, 2008, is \$4,097,000.

(2) The FY 2008 annual fee is comprised of a base annual fee for power reactors licensed to operate, a

base spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning annual fee, and associated additional charges (surcharges). The activities comprising the FY 2008 spent storage/reactor decommissioning base annual fee are shown in paragraphs (c)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2008 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2008 base annual fee for operating power reactors are as follows:

* * * * *

(c)(1) The FY 2008 annual fee for each power reactor holding a 10 CFR part 50 license that is in a decommissioning or possession only status and has spent fuel onsite, and each independent spent fuel storage 10 CFR part 72 licensee who does not hold a 10 CFR part 50 license is \$140,000.

(2) The FY 2008 annual fee is comprised of a base spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning annual fee (which is also included in the operating power reactor annual fee shown in paragraph (b) of this section), and an additional charge (surcharge). The activities comprising the FY 2008 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2008 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning rebaselined annual fee are:

* * * * *

(d)(1) The surcharge allocated to annual fees includes the budgeted resources for the activities listed in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section, plus the total budgeted resources for the activities included in paragraphs (d)(1)(ii) and (d)(1)(iii) of this section as reduced by the appropriations NRC receives for these types of activities. If the NRC's appropriations for these types of activities are greater than the budgeted resources for the activities included in paragraphs (d)(1)(ii) and (d)(1)(iii) of this section for a given FY, a negative surcharge (or annual fee reduction) will be allocated to annual fees. The activities comprising the FY 2008 surcharge are as follows:

* * * * *

(2) The total FY 2008 surcharge allocated to the operating power reactor class of licenses is –\$4.6 million, not including the amount allocated to the spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning class. The FY 2008 operating power reactor surcharge to be assessed to each operating power reactor is approximately –\$44,000. This amount is calculated by dividing the total operating power reactor surcharge (–\$4.6 million) by the number of operating power reactors (104).

(3) The FY 2008 surcharge allocated to the spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning class of licenses is –\$218,000. The FY 2008 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning surcharge to be assessed to each operating power reactor, each power reactor in decommissioning or possession only status that has spent fuel onsite, and to each independent spent fuel storage 10 CFR part 72 licensee who does not hold a 10 CFR part 50 license is approximately –\$1,775. This amount is calculated by dividing the total surcharge costs allocated to this class by the total number of power reactor licenses, except those that permanently ceased operations and have no fuel onsite, and 10 CFR part 72 licensees who do not hold a 10 CFR part 50 license.

(e) The FY 2008 annual fees for licensees authorized to operate a test and research (non-power) reactor licensed under part 50 of this chapter, unless the reactor is exempted from fees under § 171.11(a), are as follows:

Research reactor	\$77,400
Test reactor	77,400

7. In § 171.16, paragraphs (c), (d), and the introductory text of paragraph (e) are revised to read as follows:

§ 171.16 Annual fees: Materials licensees, holders of certificates of compliance, holders of sealed source and device registrations, holders of quality assurance program approvals, and government agencies licensed by the NRC.

* * * * *

(c) A licensee who is required to pay an annual fee under this section may qualify as a small entity. If a licensee qualifies as a small entity and provides the Commission with the proper certification along with its annual fee payment, the licensee may pay reduced annual fees as shown in the following table. Failure to file a small entity certification in a timely manner could result in the denial of any refund that might otherwise be due. The small entity fees are as follows:

	Maximum annual fee per licensed category
Small Businesses Not Engaged in Manufacturing (Average gross receipts over last 3 completed fiscal years):	
\$350,000 to \$6.5 million	\$2,300
Less than \$350,000	500
Small Not-For-Profit Organizations (Annual Gross Receipts):	
\$350,000 to \$6.5 million	2,300
Less than \$350,000	500
Manufacturing entities that have an average of 500 employees or fewer:	
35 to 500 employees	2,300
Fewer than 35 employees	500
Small Governmental Jurisdictions (Including publicly supported educational institutions) (Population):	
20,000 to 50,000	2,300
Fewer than 20,000	500
Educational Institutions that are not State or Publicly Supported, and have 500 Employees or Fewer:	
35 to 500 employees	2,300
Fewer than 35 employees	500

(d) The FY 2008 annual fees are comprised of a base annual fee and an additional charge (surcharge). The activities comprising the FY 2008

surcharge are shown for convenience in paragraph (e) of this section. The FY 2008 annual fees for materials licensees and holders of certificates, registrations

or approvals subject to fees under this section are shown in the following table:

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS ANNUAL FEES AND FEES FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LICENSED BY NRC

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses	Annual fees ^{1 2 3}
1. Special nuclear material:	
A. (1) Licenses for possession and use of U-235 or plutonium for fuel fabrication activities.	
(a) Strategic Special Nuclear Material (High Enriched Uranium) [Program Code(s): 21130]	\$3,082,000

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS ANNUAL FEES AND FEES FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LICENSED BY NRC—Continued
[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses	Annual fees ^{1 2 3}
(b) Low Enriched Uranium in Dispersible Form Used for Fabrication of Power Reactor Fuel [Program Code(s): 21210]	921,000
(2) All other special nuclear materials licenses not included in Category 1.A.(1) which are licensed for fuel cycle activities.	
(a) Facilities with limited operations [Program Code(s): 21310, 21320]	349,000
(b) Gas centrifuge enrichment demonstration facilities	572,000
(c) Others, including hot cell facilities	254,000
B. Licenses for receipt and storage of spent fuel and reactor-related Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste at an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) [Program Code(s): 23200]	1 ¹ N/A
C. Licenses for possession and use of special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in devices used in industrial measuring systems, including x-ray fluorescence analyzers [Program Code(s): 22140]	1,600
D. All other special nuclear material licenses, except licenses authorizing special nuclear material in unsealed form in combination that would constitute a critical quantity, as defined in § 150.11 of this chapter, for which the licensee shall pay the same fees as those for Category 1.A.(2) [Program Code(s): 22110, 22111, 22120, 22131, 22136, 22150, 22151, 22161, 22163, 22170, 23100, 23300, 23310]	4,500
E. Licenses or certificates for the operation of a uranium enrichment facility [Program Code(s): 21200]	1,747,000
2. Source material:	
A. (1) Licenses for possession and use of source material for refining uranium mill concentrates to uranium hexafluoride [Program Code(s): 11400]	604,000
(2) Licenses for possession and use of source material in recovery operations such as milling, in-situ leaching, heap-leaching, ore buying stations, ion exchange facilities and in-processing of ores containing source material for extraction of metals other than uranium or thorium, including licenses authorizing the possession of byproduct waste material (tailings) from source material recovery operations, as well as licenses authorizing the possession and maintenance of a facility in a standby mode.	
(a) Class I facilities ⁴ [Program Code(s): 11100]	10,900
(b) Class II facilities ⁴ [Program Code(s): 11500]	10,900
(c) Other facilities ⁴ [Program Code(s): 11700]	⁵ N/A
(3) Licenses that authorize the receipt of byproduct material, as defined in § 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act, from other persons for possession and disposal, except those licenses subject to the fees in Category 2.A.(2) or Category 2.A.(4) [Program Code(s): 11600]	⁵ N/A
(4) Licenses that authorize the receipt of byproduct material, as defined in § 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act, from other persons for possession and disposal incidental to the disposal of the uranium waste tailings generated by the licensee's milling operations, except those licenses subject to the fees in Category 2.A.(2)	10,900
(5) Licenses that authorize the possession of source material related to removal of contaminants (source material) from drinking water	6,500
B. Licenses that authorize only the possession, use and/or installation of source material for shielding [Program Code(s): 11210]	600
C. All other source material licenses [Program Code(s): 11200, 11220, 11221, 11230, 11300, 11800, 11810]	10,300
3. Byproduct material:	
A. Licenses of broad scope for possession and use of byproduct material issued under parts 30 and 33 of this chapter for processing or manufacturing of items containing byproduct material for commercial distribution [Program Code(s): 03211, 03212, 03213]	23,100
B. Other licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under part 30 of this chapter for processing or manufacturing of items containing byproduct material for commercial distribution [Program Code(s): 03214, 03215, 22135, 22162]	6,500
C. Licenses issued under §§ 32.72 and/or 32.74 of this chapter authorizing the processing or manufacturing and distribution or redistribution of radiopharmaceuticals, generators, reagent kits and/or sources and devices containing byproduct material. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding authorized under part 40 of this chapter when included on the same license. This category does not apply to licenses issued to nonprofit educational institutions whose processing or manufacturing is exempt under § 171.11(a)(1). These licenses are covered by fee under Category 3.D. [Program Code(s): 02500, 02511, 02513]	9,200
D. Licenses and approvals issued under §§ 32.72 and/or 32.74 of this chapter authorizing distribution or redistribution of radiopharmaceuticals, generators, reagent kits and/or sources or devices not involving processing of byproduct material. This category includes licenses issued under §§ 32.72 and 32.74 of this chapter to nonprofit educational institutions whose processing or manufacturing is exempt under § 171.11(a)(1). This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding authorized under part 40 of this chapter when included on the same license [Program Code(s): 02512, 02514]	5,300
E. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is not removed from its shield (self-shielded units) [Program Code(s): 03510, 03520]	3,100
F. Licenses for possession and use of less than 10,000 curies of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is exposed for irradiation purposes. This category also includes underwater irradiators for irradiation of materials in which the source is not exposed for irradiation purposes [Program Code(s): 03511]	6,100
G. Licenses for possession and use of 10,000 curies or more of byproduct material in sealed sources for irradiation of materials in which the source is exposed for irradiation purposes. This category also includes underwater irradiators for irradiation of materials in which the source is not exposed for irradiation purposes [Program Code(s): 03521]	24,600
H. Licenses issued under Subpart A of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material that require device review to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter, except specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter [Program Code(s): 03255]	8,800

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS ANNUAL FEES AND FEES FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LICENSED BY NRC—Continued

[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses	Annual fees ^{1 2 3}
I. Licenses issued under Subpart A of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material or quantities of byproduct material that do not require device evaluation to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter, except for specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons exempt from the licensing requirements of part 30 of this chapter [Program Code(s): 03250, 03251, 03252, 03253, 03254, 03256]	8,200
J. Licenses issued under Subpart B of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material that require sealed source and/or device review to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter, except specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter [Program Code(s): 03240, 03241, 03243]	1,900
K. Licenses issued under Subpart B of part 32 of this chapter to distribute items containing byproduct material or quantities of byproduct material that do not require sealed source and/or device review to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter, except specific licenses authorizing redistribution of items that have been authorized for distribution to persons generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter [Program Code(s): 03242, 03244]	1,500
L. Licenses of broad scope for possession and use of byproduct material issued under parts 30 and 33 of this chapter for research and development that do not authorize commercial distribution [Program Code(s): 01100, 01110, 01120, 03610, 03611, 03612, 03613]	11,700
M. Other licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under part 30 of this chapter for research and development that do not authorize commercial distribution [Program Code(s): 03620]	4,300
N. Licenses that authorize services for other licensees, except: (1) Licenses that authorize only calibration and/or leak testing services are subject to the fees specified in fee Category 3.P.; and (2) Licenses that authorize waste disposal services are subject to the fees specified in fee categories 4.A., 4.B., and 4.C. [Program Code(s): 03219, 03225, 03226]	6,600
O. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material issued under part 34 of this chapter for industrial radiography operations. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding authorized under part 40 of this chapter when authorized on the same license [Program Code(s): 03310, 03320]	11,200
P. All other specific byproduct material licenses, except those in Categories 4.A. through 9.D. [Program Code(s): 02400, 02410, 03120, 03121, 03122, 03123, 03124, 03220, 03221, 03222, 03800, 03810, 22130]	2,100
Q. Registration of devices generally licensed under part 31 of this chapter	¹³ N/A
R. Possession of items or products containing radium-226 identified in 10 CFR 31.12 which exceed the number of items or limits specified in that section: ¹⁴	
1. Possession of quantities exceeding the number of items or limits in 10 CFR 31.12(a)(4), or (5) but less than or equal to 10 times the number of items or limits specified [Program Code(s): 02700]	1,700
2. Possession of quantities exceeding 10 times the number of items or limits specified in 10 CFR 31.12(a)(4), or (5) [Program Code(s): 02710]	2,100
S. Licenses for production of accelerator-produced radionuclides [Program Code(s): 03210]	8,500
4. Waste disposal and processing:	
A. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons for the purpose of contingency storage or commercial land disposal by the licensee; or licenses authorizing contingency storage of low-level radioactive waste at the site of nuclear power reactors; or licenses for receipt of waste from other persons for incineration or other treatment, packaging of resulting waste and residues, and transfer of packages to another person authorized to receive or dispose of waste material [Program Code(s): 03231, 03233, 03235, 03236, 06100, 06101]	⁵ N/A
B. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons for the purpose of packaging or repackaging the material. The licensee will dispose of the material by transfer to another person authorized to receive or dispose of the material [Program Code(s): 03234]	9,400
C. Licenses specifically authorizing the receipt of prepackaged waste byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material from other persons. The licensee will dispose of the material by transfer to another person authorized to receive or dispose of the material [Program Code(s): 03232]	7,200
5. Well logging:	
A. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material, source material, and/or special nuclear material for well logging, well surveys, and tracer studies other than field flooding tracer studies [Program Code(s): 03110, 03111, 03112]	3,400
B. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material for field flooding tracer studies [Program Code(s): 03113]	⁵ N/A
6. Nuclear laundries:	
A. Licenses for commercial collection and laundry of items contaminated with byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material [Program Code(s): 03218]	20,800
7. Medical licenses:	
A. Licenses issued under parts 30, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter for human use of byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding when authorized on the same license [Program Code(s): 02300, 02310]	10,600
B. Licenses of broad scope issued to medical institutions or two or more physicians under parts 30, 33, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter authorizing research and development, including human use of byproduct material except licenses for byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding when authorized on the same license. ⁹ [Program Code(s): 02110]	23,000
C. Other licenses issued under parts 30, 35, 40, and 70 of this chapter for human use of byproduct material, source material, and/or special nuclear material except licenses for byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material in sealed sources contained in teletherapy devices. This category also includes the possession and use of source material for shielding when authorized on the same license. ⁹ [Program Code(s): 02120, 02121, 02200, 02201, 02210, 02220, 02230, 02231, 02240, 22160]	3,900

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS ANNUAL FEES AND FEES FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LICENSED BY NRC—Continued
[See footnotes at end of table]

Category of materials licenses	Annual fees ^{1 2 3}
8. Civil defense:	
A. Licenses for possession and use of byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material for civil defense activities [Program Code(s): 03710]	1,700
9. Device, product, or sealed source safety evaluation:	
A. Registrations issued for the safety evaluation of devices or products containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, except reactor fuel devices, for commercial distribution	14,900
B. Registrations issued for the safety evaluation of devices or products containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material manufactured in accordance with the unique specifications of, and for use by, a single applicant, except reactor fuel devices	14,900
C. Registrations issued for the safety evaluation of sealed sources containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, except reactor fuel, for commercial distribution	2,100
D. Registrations issued for the safety evaluation of sealed sources containing byproduct material, source material, or special nuclear material, manufactured in accordance with the unique specifications of, and for use by, a single applicant, except reactor fuel	700
10. Transportation of radioactive material:	
A. Certificates of Compliance or other package approvals issued for design of casks, packages, and shipping containers.	
1. Spent Fuel, High-Level Waste, and plutonium air packages	⁶ N/A
2. Other Casks	⁶ N/A
B. Quality assurance program approvals issued under part 71 of this chapter:	
1. Users and Fabricators	⁶ N/A
2. Users	⁶ N/A
C. Evaluation of security plans, route approvals, route surveys, and transportation security devices (including immobilization devices)	⁶ N/A
11. Standardized spent fuel facilities	⁶ N/A
12. Special Projects	⁶ N/A
13. A. Spent fuel storage cask Certificate of Compliance	⁶ N/A
B. General licenses for storage of spent fuel under 10 CFR 72.210	¹² N/A
14. Decommissioning/Reclamation:	
A. Byproduct, source, or special nuclear material licenses and other approvals authorizing decommissioning, decontamination, reclamation, or site restoration activities under parts 30, 40, 70, 72, and 76 of this chapter	⁷ N/A
B. Site-specific decommissioning activities associated with unlicensed sites, whether or not the sites have been previously licensed	⁷ N/A
15. Import and Export licenses	⁸ N/A
16. Reciprocity	⁸ N/A
17. Master materials licenses of broad scope issued to Government agencies	227,000
18. Department of Energy:	
A. Certificates of Compliance	¹⁰ 880,000
B. Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) activities	596,000

¹ Annual fees will be assessed based on whether a licensee held a valid license with the NRC authorizing possession and use of radioactive material during the current FY. The annual fee is waived for those materials licenses and holders of certificates, registrations, and approvals who either filed for termination of their licenses or approvals or filed for possession only/storage licenses before October 1, 2007, and permanently ceased licensed activities entirely before this date. Annual fees for licensees who filed for termination of a license, downgrade of a license, or for a possession only license during the FY and for new licenses issued during the FY will be prorated in accordance with the provisions of § 171.17. If a person holds more than one license, certificate, registration, or approval, the annual fee(s) will be assessed for each license, certificate, registration, or approval held by that person. For licenses that authorize more than one activity on a single license (e.g., human use and irradiator activities), annual fees will be assessed for each category applicable to the license. Licensees paying annual fees under Category 1.A.(1) are not subject to the annual fees for Categories 1.C. and 1.D. for sealed sources authorized in the license.

² Payment of the prescribed annual fee does not automatically renew the license, certificate, registration, or approval for which the fee is paid. Renewal applications must be filed in accordance with the requirements of parts 30, 40, 70, 71, 72, or 76 of this chapter.

³ Each FY, fees for these materials licenses will be calculated and assessed in accordance with § 171.13 and will be published in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment.

⁴ A Class I license includes mill licenses issued for the extraction of uranium from uranium ore. A Class II license includes solution mining licenses (in-situ and heap leach) issued for the extraction of uranium from uranium ores including research and development licenses. An "other" license includes licenses for extraction of metals, heavy metals, and rare earths.

⁵ There are no existing NRC licenses in these fee categories. If NRC issues a license for these categories, the Commission will consider establishing an annual fee for this type of license.

⁶ Standardized spent fuel facilities, 10 CFR parts 71 and 72 Certificates of Compliance and related Quality Assurance program approvals, and special reviews, such as topical reports, are not assessed an annual fee because the generic costs of regulating these activities are primarily attributable to users of the designs, certificates, and topical reports.

⁷ Licensees in this category are not assessed an annual fee because they are charged an annual fee in other categories while they are licensed to operate.

⁸ No annual fee is charged because it is not practical to administer due to the relatively short life or temporary nature of the license.

⁹ Separate annual fees will not be assessed for pacemaker licenses issued to medical institutions that also hold nuclear medicine licenses under Categories 7.B. or 7.C.

¹⁰ This includes Certificates of Compliance issued to DOE that are not under the Nuclear Waste Fund.

¹¹ See § 171.15(c).

¹² See § 171.15(c).

¹³ No annual fee is charged for this category because the cost of the general license registration program applicable to licenses in this category will be recovered through 10 CFR part 170 fees.

¹⁴ Persons who possess radium sources that are used for operational purposes in another fee category are not also subject to the fees in this category. (This exception does not apply if the radium sources are possessed for storage only.)

(e) The surcharge allocated to annual fees includes the budgeted resources for the activities listed in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, plus the total budgeted resources for the activities included in paragraphs (e)(2) and (e)(3) of this section as reduced by the appropriations NRC receives for these types of activities. If the NRC's appropriations for these types of activities are greater than the budgeted resources for the activities included in paragraphs (e)(2) and (e)(3) of this section for a given FY, a negative surcharge (or annual fee reduction) will be allocated to annual fees. The activities comprising the FY 2008 surcharge are as follows:

* * * * *

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of January, 2008.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
William M. McCabe,
Chief Financial Officer.

NOTE: This Appendix will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Appendix A to This Proposed Rule— Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for the Proposed Amendments to 10 CFR Part 170 (License Fees) and 10 CFR Part 171 (Annual Fees)

I. Background

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), as amended 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, requires that agencies consider the impact of their rulemakings on small entities and, consistent with applicable statutes, consider alternatives to minimize these impacts on the businesses, organizations, and government jurisdictions to which they apply.

The NRC has established standards for determining which NRC licensees qualify as small entities (10 CFR 2.810). These size standards were established based on the Small Business Administration's most common receipts-based size standards and include a size standard for business concerns that are manufacturing entities. The NRC uses the size standards to reduce the impact of annual fees on small entities by establishing a licensee's eligibility to qualify for a maximum small entity fee. The small entity fee categories in § 171.16(c) of this proposed rule are based on the NRC's size standards.

The NRC is required each year, under OBRA-90, as amended, to recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority (less amounts appropriated from the NWF and for other activities specifically removed from the fee base), through fees to NRC licensees and applicants. In total, the NRC is required to bill approximately \$760.7 million in fees for FY 2008.

OBRA-90 requires that the schedule of charges established by rulemaking should fairly and equitably allocate the total amount to be recovered from the NRC's licensees and be assessed under the principle that licensees who require the greatest expenditure of agency resources pay the greatest annual

charges. Since FY 1991, the NRC has complied with OBRA-90 by issuing a final rule that amends its fee regulations. These final rules have established the methodology used by the NRC in identifying and determining the fees to be assessed and collected in any given FY.

The Commission is proposing to rebase line its part 171 annual fees in FY 2008. Rebaselining fees results in increased annual fees compared to FY 2007 for the power reactors and non-power reactors, and decreased annual fees for four classes of licensees (spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning, fuel facilities, transportation, and materials users). Within the uranium recovery fee class, annual fees for the all the non DOE licensees decrease, while annual fee for the DOE increases slightly. There is no annual fee for the rare earth fee class because this NRC fee class will no longer exist in FY 2008. As discussed in Section II.B.2., "Agreement State Activities", of this document, NRC's only rare earth facility will transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when it becomes an Agreement State.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996 provides Congress with the opportunity to review agency rules before they go into effect. Under this legislation, the NRC annual fee rule is considered a "major" rule and must be reviewed by Congress and the Comptroller General before the rule becomes effective.

The Congressional Review Act also requires that an agency prepare a guide to assist small entities in complying with each rule for which a final RFA is prepared. This analysis and the small entity compliance guide (Attachment 1) have been prepared for the FY 2008 fee rule as required by law.

II. Impact on Small Entities

The fee rule results in substantial fees being charged to those individuals, organizations, and companies licensed by the NRC, including those licensed under the NRC materials program. The comments received on previous proposed fee rules and the small entity certifications received in response to previous final fee rules indicate that NRC licensees qualifying as small entities under the NRC's size standards are primarily materials licensees. Therefore, this analysis will focus on the economic impact of the fees on materials licensees. In FY 2007, about 32 percent of these licensees (approximately 1,400 licensees) qualified as small entities.

The commenters on previous fee rulemakings consistently indicated that the following results would occur if the proposed annual fees were not modified:

1. Large firms would gain an unfair competitive advantage over small entities. Commenters noted that small and very small companies ("Mom and Pop" operations) would find it more difficult to absorb the annual fee than a large corporation or a high-volume type of operation. In competitive markets, such as soil testing, annual fees would put small licensees at an extreme competitive disadvantage with their much larger competitors because the proposed fees would be the same for a two-person licensee as for a large firm with thousands of employees.

2. Some firms would be forced to cancel their licenses. A licensee with receipts of less than \$500,000 per year stated that the proposed rule would, in effect, force it to relinquish its soil density gauge and license, thereby reducing its ability to do its work effectively. Other licensees, especially well-loggers, noted that the increased fees would force small businesses to get rid of the materials license altogether. Commenters stated that the proposed rule would result in about 10 percent of the well-logging licensees terminating their licenses immediately and approximately 25 percent terminating their licenses before the next annual assessment.

3. Some companies would go out of business.

4. Some companies would have budget problems. Many medical licensees noted that, along with reduced reimbursements, the proposed increase of the existing fees and the introduction of additional fees would significantly affect their budgets. Others noted that, in view of the cuts by Medicare and other third party carriers, the fees would produce a hardship and some facilities would experience a great deal of difficulty in meeting this additional burden.

Over 3,000 licenses, approvals, and registration terminations have been requested since the NRC first established annual fees for materials licensees. Although some of these terminations were requested because the license was no longer needed or licenses or registrations could be combined, indications are that other termination requests were due to the economic impact of the fees.

To alleviate the significant impact of the annual fees on a substantial number of small entities, the NRC considered the following alternatives in accordance with the RFA in developing each of its fee rules since FY 1991.

1. Base fees on some measure of the amount of radioactivity possessed by the licensee (e.g., number of sources).

2. Base fees on the frequency of use of the licensed radioactive material (e.g., volume of patients).

3. Base fees on the NRC size standards for small entities.

The NRC has reexamined its previous evaluations of these alternatives and continues to believe that establishment of a maximum fee for small entities is the most appropriate and effective option for reducing the impact of its fees on small entities.

III. Maximum Fee

The RFA and its implementing guidance do not provide specific guidelines on what constitutes a significant economic impact on a small entity; therefore, the NRC has no benchmark to assist it in determining the amount or the percent of gross receipts that should be charged to a small entity. In developing the maximum small entity annual fee in FY 1991, the NRC examined its 10 CFR part 170 licensing and inspection fees and Agreement State fees for those fee categories which were expected to have a substantial number of small entities. Six Agreement States (Washington, Texas, Illinois, Nebraska, New York, and Utah), were used as benchmarks in the establishment of the

maximum small entity annual fee in FY 1991.

The NRC maximum small entity fee was established as an annual fee only. In addition to the annual fee, NRC small entity licensees were required to pay amendment, renewal and inspection fees. In setting the small entity annual fee, NRC ensured that the total amount small entities paid annually would not exceed the maximum paid in the six benchmark Agreement States.

Of the six benchmark states, the maximum Agreement State fee of \$3,800 in Washington was used as the ceiling for the total fees. Thus the NRC's small entity fee was developed to ensure that the total fees paid by NRC small entities would not exceed \$3,800. Given the NRC's FY 1991 fee structure for inspections, amendments, and renewals, a small entity annual fee established at \$1,800 allowed the total fee (small entity annual fee plus yearly average for inspections, amendments and renewal fees) for all categories to fall under the \$3,800 ceiling.

In FY 1992, the NRC introduced a second, lower tier to the small entity fee in response to concerns that the \$1,800 fee, when added to the license and inspection fees, still imposed a significant impact on small entities with relatively low gross annual receipts. For purposes of the annual fee, each small entity size standard was divided into an upper and lower tier. Small entity licensees in the upper tier continued to pay an annual fee of \$1,800 while those in the lower tier paid an annual fee of \$400.

Based on the changes that had occurred since FY 1991, the NRC re-analyzed its maximum small entity annual fees in FY 2000, and determined that the small entity fees should be increased by 25 percent to reflect the increase in the average fees paid by other materials licensees since FY 1991, as well as changes in the fee structure for materials licensees. The structure of the fees that NRC charged to its materials licensees changed during the period between 1991 and 1999. Costs for materials license inspections, renewals, and amendments, which were previously recovered through part 170 fees for services, are now included in the part 171 annual fees assessed to materials licensees. As a result, the maximum small entity annual fee increased from \$1,800 to \$2,300 in FY 2000. By increasing the maximum annual fee for small entities from \$1,800 to \$2,300, the annual fee for many small entities was reduced. At the same time materials licensees, including small entities, would pay for most of the costs attributable to them. The costs not recovered from small entities are allocated to other materials licensees and to power reactors.

While reducing the impact on many small entities, the NRC determined that the maximum annual fee of \$2,300 for small entities may continue to have a significant impact on materials licensees with annual gross receipts in the thousands of dollars range. Therefore, the NRC continued to provide a lower-tier small entity annual fee for small entities with relatively low gross annual receipts, and for manufacturing concerns and educational institutions not State or publicly supported, with fewer than

35 employees. The NRC also increased the lower tier small entity fee by the same percentage increase to the maximum small entity annual fee. This 25 percent increase resulted in the lower tier small entity fee increasing from \$400 to \$500 in FY 2000.

The NRC stated in the RFA for the FY 2001 final fee rule that it would re-examine the small entity fees every two years, in the same years in which it conducts the biennial review of fees as required by the Chief Financial Officer's Act. Accordingly, the NRC examined the small entity fees again in FY 2003 (68 FR 36714; June 18, 2003), and determined that a change was not warranted to the small entity fees established in FY 2001. The NRC performed a similar review, and reached the same conclusion, in FY 2005.

The NRC re-examined its small entity fees for the FY 2007 fee rulemaking, and did not believe that a change to the small entity fees was warranted. Unlike the annual fees assessed to other licensees, the small entity fees are not designed to recover the entire agency costs associated with particular licensees. Instead, the reduced fees for small entities are designed to provide some fee relief for qualifying small entity licensees while at the same time recovering from them some of the agency's costs for activities that benefit them. The costs not recovered from small entities for activities that benefit them must be recovered from other licensees. Given the reduction in annual fees from FY 2000 to FY 2007, on average, for those categories of materials licensees that contain a number of small entities, the NRC determined that the current small entity fees of \$500 and \$2,300 continued to meet the objective of providing relief to many small entities while recovering from them some of the costs that benefit them.

As part of the small entity review in FY 2007, the NRC also considered whether it should establish reduced fees for small entities under part 170. The NRC received one comment requesting that such small entity fees be considered for certain export licenses, particularly in light of the recent increases to part 170 fees for these licenses. Because the NRC's part 170 fees are not assessed to a licensee or applicant on a regular basis (i.e., they are only assessed when a licensee or applicant requests a specific service from the NRC), the NRC does not believe that the impact of its part 170 fees warrants a fee reduction for small entities under part 170, in addition to the part 171 small entity fee reduction. Regarding export licenses, in particular, the NRC notes that interested parties can submit a single application for a broad scope, multi-year license that permits exports to multiple countries. Because the NRC's fees are charged per application, this streamlining process minimizes the fees for export applicants. Because a single NRC fee can cover numerous exports, and because there are a limited number of entities who apply for these licenses, the NRC does not anticipate that the part 170 export fees will have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Therefore, the NRC retained the \$2,300 small entity annual fee and the \$500 lower

tier small entity annual fee for FY 2007, and is not proposing changes to these fees in FY 2008. The NRC plans to re-examine the small entity fees again in FY 2009.

IV. Summary

The NRC has determined that the 10 CFR part 171 annual fees significantly impact a substantial number of small entities. A maximum fee for small entities strikes a balance between the requirement to recover 90 percent of the NRC budget and the requirement to consider means of reducing the impact of the fee on small entities. Based on its regulatory flexibility analysis, the NRC concludes that a maximum annual fee of \$2,300 for small entities and a lower-tier small entity annual fee of \$500 for small businesses and not-for-profit organizations with gross annual receipts of less than \$350,000, small governmental jurisdictions with a population of fewer than 20,000, small manufacturing entities that have fewer than 35 employees, and educational institutions that are not State or publicly supported and have fewer than 35 employees reduces the impact on small entities. At the same time, these reduced annual fees are consistent with the objectives of OBRA-90. Thus, the fees for small entities maintain a balance between the objectives of OBRA-90 and the RFA. Therefore, the analysis and conclusions previously established remain valid for FY 2008.

ATTACHMENT 1 TO APPENDIX A—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Small Entity Compliance Guide; Fiscal Year 2008

Contents

Introduction
NRC Definition of Small Entity
NRC Small Entity Fees
Instructions for Completing NRC Form 526

Introduction

The Congressional Review Act requires all Federal agencies to prepare a written guide for each "major" final rule, as defined by the Act. The NRC's fee rule, published annually to comply with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA-90), as amended, is considered a "major" rule under the Congressional Review Act. Therefore, in compliance with the law, this guide has been prepared to assist NRC materials licensees in complying with the FY 2008 fee rule.

Licensees may use this guide to determine whether they qualify as a small entity under NRC regulations and are eligible to pay reduced FY 2008 annual fees assessed under 10 CFR part 171. The NRC has established two tiers of annual fees for those materials licensees who qualify as small entities under the NRC's size standards.

Licensees who meet the NRC's size standards for a small entity (listed in 10 CFR 2.810) must submit a completed NRC Form 526 "Certification of Small Entity Status for the Purposes of Annual Fees Imposed under 10 CFR Part 171" to qualify for the reduced annual fee. This form can be accessed on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov>. The form can then be accessed by selecting "Who We Are," then "License Fees" and under "Forms" selecting NRC Form 526. For licensees who cannot access the NRC's Web

site, NRC Form 526 may be obtained through the local point of contact listed in the NRC's "Materials Annual Fee Billing Handbook," NUREG/BR-0238, which is enclosed with each annual fee billing. Alternatively, the form may be obtained by calling the fee staff at 301-415-7554, or by e-mailing the fee staff at fees@nrc.gov. The completed form, the appropriate small entity fee, and the payment copy of the invoice should be mailed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, License Fee Team, at the address indicated on the invoice. Failure to file the NRC small entity certification Form 526 in a timely manner may result in the denial of any refund that might otherwise be due.

NRC Definition of Small Entity

For purposes of compliance with its regulations (10 CFR 2.810), the NRC has defined a small entity as follows:

(1) *Small business*—a for-profit concern that provides a service, or a concern that is not engaged in manufacturing, with average gross receipts of \$6.5 million or less over its last 3 completed fiscal years;

(2) *Manufacturing industry*—a manufacturing concern with an average of

500 or fewer employees based on employment during each pay period for the preceding 12 calendar months;

(3) *Small organizations*—a not-for-profit organization that is independently owned and operated and has annual gross receipts of \$6.5 million or less;

(4) *Small governmental jurisdiction*—a government of a city, county, town, township, village, school district or special district, with a population of fewer than 50,000;

(5) *Small educational institution*—an educational institution supported by a qualifying small governmental jurisdiction, or one that is not State or publicly supported and has 500 or fewer employees.¹

To further assist licensees in determining if they qualify as a small entity, the following guidelines are provided, which are based on the Small Business Administration's regulations (13 CFR part 121).

(1) A small business concern is an independently owned and operated entity which is not considered dominant in its field of operations.

(2) The number of employees means the total number of employees in the parent

company, any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, including both foreign and domestic locations (i.e., not solely the number of employees working for the licensee or conducting NRC licensed activities for the company).

(3) Gross annual receipts includes all revenue received or accrued from any source, including receipts of the parent company, any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, and account for both foreign and domestic locations. Receipts include all revenues from sales of products and services, interest, rent, fees, and commissions, from whatever sources derived (i.e., not solely receipts from NRC licensed activities).

(4) A licensee who is a subsidiary of a large entity, including a foreign entity, does not qualify as a small entity.

NRC Small Entity Fees

In 10 CFR 171.16(c), the NRC has established two tiers of fees for licensees that qualify as a small entity under the NRC's size standards. The fees are as follows:

	Maximum annual fee per licensed category
Small Businesses Not Engaged in Manufacturing (Average gross receipts over last 3 completed fiscal years):	
\$350,000 to \$6.5 million	\$2,300
Less than \$350,000	500
Small Not-For-Profit Organizations (Annual Gross Receipts):	
\$350,000 to \$6.5 million	2,300
Less than \$350,000	500
Manufacturing entities that have an average of 500 employees or fewer:	
35 to 500 employees	2,300
Fewer than 35 employees	500
Small Governmental Jurisdictions (Including publicly supported educational institutions) (Population):	
20,000 to 50,000	2,300
Fewer than 20,000	500
Educational Institutions that are not State or Publicly Supported, and have 500 Employees or Fewer:	
35 to 500 employees	2,300
Fewer than 35 employees	500

Instructions for Completing NRC Small Entity Form 526

1. Complete all items on NRC Form 526 as follows:

(Note: Incomplete or improperly completed forms will be returned as unacceptable.)

(a) Enter the license number and invoice number exactly as they appear on the annual fee invoice.

(b) Enter the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

(c) Enter the licensee's name and address exactly as they appear on the invoice. Annotate name and/or address changes for billing purposes on the payment copy of the invoice—include contact's name, telephone number, e-mail address, and company Web site address. Correcting the name and/or address on NRC Form 526 or on the invoice does not constitute a request to amend the license.

(d) Check the appropriate size standard under which the licensee qualifies as a small entity. Check one box only. Note the following:

(i) A licensee who is a subsidiary of a large entity, including foreign entities, does not qualify as a small entity. The calculation of a firm's size includes the employees or receipts of all affiliates. Affiliation with another concern is based on the power to control, whether exercised or not. Such factors as common ownership, common management and identity of interest (often found in members of the same family), among others, are indications of affiliation. The affiliated business concerns need not be in the same line of business (67 CFR part 59).

(ii) Gross annual receipts, as used in the size standards, include all revenue received or accrued by your company from all sources,

regardless of the form of the revenue and not solely receipts from licensed activities.

(iii) NRC's size standards on small entity are based on the Small Business Administration's regulations (13 CFR part 121).

(iv) The size standards apply to the licensee, not to the individual authorized users who may be listed in the license.

2. If the invoice states the "Amount Billed Represents 50% Proration," the amount due is not the prorated amount shown on the invoice but rather one-half of the maximum small entity annual fee shown on NRC Form 526 for the size standard under which the licensee qualifies (either \$1,150 or \$250) for each category billed.

3. If the invoice amount is less than the reduced small entity annual fee shown on this form, pay the amount on the invoice; there is no further reduction. In this case, do

¹An educational institution referred to in the size standards is an entity whose primary function is education, whose programs are accredited by a

nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, who is legally authorized to provide a program of organized instruction or study, who

provides an educational program for which it awards academic degrees, and whose educational programs are available to the public.

not file NRC Form 526. However, if the invoice amount is greater than the reduced small entity annual fee, file NRC Form 526 and pay the amount applicable to the size standard you checked on the form.

4. The completed NRC Form 526 must be submitted with the required annual fee payment and the "Payment Copy" of the invoice to the address shown on the invoice.

5. 10 CFR 171.16(c)(3) states licensees shall submit a new certification with its annual fee payment each year. Failure to submit NRC Form 526 at the time the annual fee is paid will require the licensee to pay the full amount of the invoice.

The NRC sends invoices to its licensees for the full annual fee, even though some licensees qualify for reduced fees as small entities. Licensees who qualify as small entities and file NRC Form 526, which certifies eligibility for small entity fees, may pay the reduced fee, which is either \$2,300

or \$500 for a full year, depending on the size of the entity, for each fee category shown on the invoice. Licensees granted a license during the first 6 months of the fiscal year, and licensees who file for termination or for a (possession only) license and permanently cease licensed activities during the first 6 months of the fiscal year, pay only 50 percent of the annual fee for that year. Such invoices state that the "amount billed represents 50% proration."

Licensees must file a new small entity form (NRC Form 526) with the NRC each fiscal year to qualify for reduced fees in that year. Because a licensee's "size," or the size standards, may change from year to year, the invoice reflects the full fee and licensees must complete and return NRC Form 526 for the fee to be reduced to the small entity fee amount. LICENSEES WILL NOT RECEIVE A NEW INVOICE FOR THE REDUCED AMOUNT. The completed NRC Form 526,

the payment of the appropriate small entity fee, and the "Payment Copy" of the invoice should be mailed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, License Fee Team at the address indicated on the invoice.

If you have questions regarding the NRC's annual fees, please contact the license fee staff at 301-415-7554, e-mail the fee staff at fees@nrc.gov, or write to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

False certification of small entity status could result in civil sanctions being imposed by the NRC under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, 31 U.S.C. 3801 *et. seq.* NRC's implementing regulations are found at 10 CFR part 13.

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