

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

§ 171.15

payment in full ensures avoidance of interest and penalty charges. If a partial or full exemption is granted, any overpayment will be refunded. Requests for clarification of or questions relating to an annual fee bill must also be filed within 90 days from the date of the initial invoice to be considered.

(c) An exemption for reactors under this provision may be granted by the Commission taking into consideration each of the following factors:

- (1) Age of the reactor;
- (2) Size of the reactor;
- (3) Number of customers in rate base;
- (4) Net increase in KWh cost for each customer directly related to the annual fee assessed under this part; and
- (5) Any other relevant matter which the licensee believes justifies the reduction of the annual fee.

(d) The Commission may grant a materials licensee an exemption from the annual fee if it determines that the annual fee is not based on a fair and equitable allocation of the NRC costs. The following factors must be fulfilled as determined by the Commission for an exemption to be granted:

- (1) There are data specifically indicating that the assessment of the annual fee will result in a significantly disproportionate allocation of costs to the licensee, or class of licensees; or
- (2) There is clear and convincing evidence that the budgeted generic costs attributable to the class of licensees are neither directly or indirectly related to the specific class of licensee nor explicitly allocated to the licensee by Commission policy decisions; or
- (3) Any other relevant matter that the licensee believes shows that the annual fee was not based on a fair and equitable allocation of NRC costs.

[56 FR 31505, July 10, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 32714, July 23, 1992; 58 FR 38695, July 20, 1993; 59 FR 12543, Mar. 17, 1994; 59 FR 36924, July 20, 1994]

§ 171.13 Notice.

The annual fees applicable to any NRC licensee subject to this part and calculated in accordance with §§ 171.15 and 171.16, will be published as a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as possible but no later than the third quarter of the fiscal year. The annual fees will become due and payable to the

NRC as indicated in § 171.19. Quarterly payments of the annual fee of \$100,000 or more will continue during the fiscal year and be based on the applicable annual fees as shown in §§ 171.15 and 171.16 until a notice concerning the revised amount of the fees for the fiscal year is published by the NRC. If the NRC is unable to publish a final fee rule that becomes effective during the current fiscal year, fees would be assessed based on the rates in effect for the previous fiscal year.

[64 FR 31475, June 10, 1999]

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

(a) Each person licensed to operate a power, test, or research reactor; each person holding a Part 50 power reactor license that is in decommissioning or possession only status, except those that have no spent fuel on-site; and each person holding a Part 72 license who does not hold a Part 50 license shall pay the annual fee for each unit for each license held at any time during the Federal FY in which the fee is due. This paragraph does not apply to test and research reactors exempted under § 171.11(a).

(b)(1) The FY 2000 annual fee for each operating power reactor which must be collected by September 30, 2000, is \$2,815,000. This fee has been determined by adjusting the FY 1999 actual (prior to rounding) annual fee upward by approximately 1.4 percent.

(2) The FY 1999 annual fee was comprised of a base operating power reactor annual fee, a base spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning annual fee, and associated additional charges (surcharges). The activities comprising the FY 1999 spent storage/reactor decommissioning base annual fee are shown in paragraph (c)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 1999 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 1999 base annual fee for operating power reactors are as follows:

- (i) Power reactor safety and safeguards regulation except licensing and inspection activities recovered under Part 170 of this chapter and generic reactor decommissioning activities.

(ii) Research activities directly related to the regulation of power reactors except those activities specifically related to reactor decommissioning.

(iii) Generic activities required largely for NRC to regulate power reactors, *e.g.*, updating Part 50 of this chapter, or operating the Incident Response Center. The base annual fee for operating power reactors does not include generic activities specifically related to reactor decommissioning.

(c)(1) The FY 2000 annual fee for each power reactor holding a Part 50 license that is in a decommissioning or possession only status and has spent fuel onsite and each independent spent fuel storage Part 72 licensee who does not hold a Part 50 license is \$209,000. This fee has been determined by increasing the FY 1999 actual (prior to rounding) annual fee by approximately 1.4 percent.

(2) The FY 1999 annual fee was 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 1999 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 1999 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning base annual fee are:

(i) Generic and other research activities directly related to reactor decommissioning and spent fuel storage; and

(ii) Other safety, environmental, and safeguards activities related to reactor decommissioning and spent fuel storage, except costs for licensing and inspection activities that are recovered under part 170 of this chapter.

(d)(1) The activities comprising the FY 1999 surcharge are as follows:

(i) Low level waste disposal generic activities;

(ii) Activities not attributable to an existing NRC licensee or class of licensees (*e.g.*, international cooperative safety program and international safeguards activities, support for the Agreement State program, and site decommissioning management plan (SDMP) activities); and

(iii) Activities not currently subject to 10 CFR Part 170 licensing and in-

spection fees based on existing law or Commission policy, *e.g.*, reviews and inspections conducted of nonprofit educational institutions, licensing actions for Federal agencies, and costs that would not be collected from small entities based on Commission policy in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

(2) The total FY 1999 surcharge allocated to operating power reactor class of licensees is \$44 million, not including the amount allocated to the new fee class, spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning. The FY 1999 operating power reactor surcharge to be assessed to each operating power reactor is \$423,000. This amount is calculated by dividing the total operating power reactor surcharge (\$44 million) by the number of operating power reactors (104).

(3) The FY 1999 surcharge allocated to spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning class of licensees is \$3.2 million. The FY 1999 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning surcharge to be added 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 Part 72 licensee who does not hold a Part 50 license is \$26,500. This amount is calculated by dividing the total surcharge costs allocated to this class by the total number of power reactor licensees, except those that permanently ceased operations and have no fuel onsite, and Part 72 licensees who do not hold a Part 50 license.

(e) The FY 2000 annual fees for licensees authorized to operate a nonpower (test and research) reactor licensed under Part 50 of this chapter have been determined by revising the FY 1999 actual (prior to rounding) annual fee upward by approximately 1.4 percent. The FY 2000 annual fee for each nonpower reactor, unless the reactor is exempted from fees under § 171.11(a), is as follows:

Research reactor—\$87,100

Test reactor—\$87,100

[64 FR 31475, June 10, 1999; 64 FR 38816, July 20, 1999; 65 FR 36964, June 12, 2000]