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U.S.C. 2134(c)) for operation at a thermal power level of 10 megawatts or less; and

(ii) If so licensed for operation at a thermal power level of more than 1 megawatt, does not contain—

(A) A circulating loop through the core in which the licensee conducts fuel experiments;

(B) A liquid fuel loading; or

(C) An experimental facility in the core in excess of 16 square inches in cross-section.

(b) The Commission may, upon application by an interested person or on its own initiative, grant an exemption from the requirements of this part that it determines is authorized by law or otherwise in the public interest. Requests for exemption must be filed with the NRC within 90 days from the effective date of the final rule establishing the annual fees for which the exemption is sought in order to be considered. Absent extraordinary circumstances, any exemption requests filed beyond that date will not be considered. The filing of an exemption request does not extend the date on which the bill is payable. Only timely 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 licensed to operate 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; 67 FR 42634, June 24, 2002]

### § 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 license held at any time during the Federal FY in which the fee is due. This

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paragraph does not apply to test and research reactors exempted under § 171.11(a).

(b)(1) The FY 2004 annual fee for each operating power reactor which must be collected by September 30, 2004, is \$3,283,000.

(2) The FY 2004 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 2004 spent storage/reactor decommissioning base annual fee are shown in paragraphs (c)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2004 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2004 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 2004 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 \$203,000.

(2) The FY 2004 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 2004 surcharge are shown in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The activities comprising the FY 2004 spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning rebaselined 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 2004 surcharge are as follows:

(i) Low-level waste disposal generic activities;

(ii) Activities not attributable to an existing NRC licensee or class of licenses (e.g., international cooperative safety program and international safeguards activities, support for the Agreement State program, and complex materials site decommissioning activities not covered under Part 170); and

(iii) Activities not currently subject to 10 CFR part 170 licensing and inspection 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, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*).

(2) The total FY 2004 surcharge allocated to the operating power reactor class of licenses is \$17.2 million, not including the amount allocated to the spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning class. The FY 2004 operating power reactor surcharge to be assessed to each operating power reactor is approximately \$165,000. This amount is calculated by dividing the total operating power reactor surcharge (\$17.2 million) by the number of operating power reactors (104).

(3) The FY 2004 surcharge allocated to the spent fuel storage/reactor decommissioning class of licenses is \$900,000. The FY 2004 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 part 72 licensee who does not hold a part 50 license is approximately \$7,800. This amount is calculated by dividing the

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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 part 72 licensees who do not hold a part 50 license.

(e) The FY 2004 annual fees for licensees authorized to operate a non-power (test and research) reactor licensed under part 50 of this chapter, unless the reactor is exempted from fees under § 171.11(a), are as follows:

- Research reactor—\$62,500.
- Test reactor—\$62,500.

[67 FR 42634, June 24, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 36734, June 18, 2003; 69 FR 22681, Apr. 26, 2004]

**§ 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.**

(a)(1) The provisions of this section apply to person(s) who are authorized to conduct activities under—

- (i) 10 CFR part 30 for byproduct material;
- (ii) 10 CFR part 40 for source material;
- (iii) 10 CFR part 70 for special nuclear material;
- (iv) 10 CFR part 71 for packaging and transportation of radioactive material; and
- (v) 10 CFR part 76 for uranium enrichment.

(2) Each person identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall pay an annual fee for each license the person holds at any time during the first six months of the Federal fiscal year (October 1 through March 31). Annual fees will be prorated for new licenses issued and for licenses for which termination is requested and activities permanently ceased during the period October 1 through March 31 of the fiscal year as provided in § 171.17 of this section. If a single license authorizes more than one activity (e.g., human use and irradiator activities), annual fees will be assessed for each fee category applicable to the license. If you hold more than one license, the total annual fee you will be assessed will be the cumulative total of the annual fees applicable to the licenses you hold.

(b) The annual fee is comprised of a base annual fee and an additional charge (surcharge). The activities comprising the surcharge are shown in paragraph (e) of this section. The activities comprising the base annual fee is the sum of the NRC budgeted costs for:

- (1) Generic and other research activities directly related to the regulation of materials licenses as defined in this part; and
- (2) Other safety, environmental, and safeguards activities for materials licenses, except costs for licensing and inspection activities that are recovered under Part 170 of this chapter.

(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
<i>Small Businesses Not Engaged in Manufacturing and Small Not-For-Profit Organizations (Gross Annual Receipts)</i>	
\$350,000 to \$5 million .....	\$2,300
Less than \$350,000 .....	500
<i>Manufacturing entities that have an average of 500 employees or less</i>	
35 to 500 employees .....	2,300
Less than 35 employees .....	500
<i>Small Governmental Jurisdictions (Including publicly supported educational institutions) (Population)</i>	
20,000 to 50,000 .....	2,300
Less than 20,000 .....	500
<i>Educational Institutions that are not State or Publicly Supported, and have 500 Employees or Less</i>	
35 to 500 employees .....	2,300
Less than 35 employees .....	500

(1) A licensee qualifies as a small entity if it meets the size standards established by the NRC (See 10 CFR 2.810).

(2) A licensee who seeks to establish status as a small entity for the purpose of paying the annual fees required