



NRC's Uranium Recovery Inspection Program

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Discussion Topics

- Inspection Frequency
- Summary of 2007 Inspection Findings
- Inspection Fees and Billing Policy
- Administrative Changes to Licenses
- Regional Management Changes

Inspection Frequencies

- 2 Manual Chapters govern the UR inspection program
 - MC 2641: In-Situ Leach Uranium Recovery
 - MC 2801: Uranium Mill Sites

Inspection Frequencies, cont.

MC 2641 (ISLs only)

- Producing ISLs (2 facilities)
 - Normal: 6 months
 - Extended: 12 months
- Standby or Inactive ISLs (1 facility)
 - Normal: 1 year
 - Extended: 3 years
- ISLs in Restoration (none)
 - Normal: 1 year
 - Extended: 3 years

Inspection Frequencies, cont.

MC 2801 (conventional mills)

- Through 2006, Region IV conducted UR inspections with the following frequencies:
 - once per year at selected facilities
 - every 2 years at facilities in reclamation and standby
 - every 3 years at inactive sites
- Beginning in 2007, Region IV began conducting UR inspections in accordance with the specified frequency in MC 2801 or 2641
 - For example, RIV plans to reduce the 3 year interval to 2 years to agree with MC 2801 and MC 2800 (materials) guidance

Inspection Frequencies, cont.

- Number of UR Inspections Performed by Region IV
 - 2006: 7
 - 2007: 11 (plus 2 site visits)
 - 2008: 9 planned (plus 2-3 site visits)
 - 2009 and beyond: 12 minimum planned
 - Pre-licensing visits and construction inspections will be conducted more frequently in the future

Summary of 2007 Inspection Findings

- FY2007 (Oct 2006-Sept 2007)
- 5 violations
 - Failure to post radiation area
 - Failure to implement ground H₂O monitoring
 - Failure to perform settlement monitoring
 - Exceedance of annual production limits
 - Expired waste disposal agreement

Summary of 2007 Inspection Findings, cont.

- 4 Licensee Event Reports
 - 2 significant spills
 - 1 groundwater excursion
 - 1 exceedance of annual radon flux limit on tailing pile
- 1 Unresolved item
 - Shipping of empty containers

Summary of 2007 Inspection Findings, cont.

- 3 Non-Cited Violations
 - Failure to use a RWP resulting in a uranium intake by employee
 - Failure to survey a container prior to shipment
 - Failure to collect all monitoring well samples

Licensee Fees

10 CFR 170.31 Schedule of Materials Fees

- 2 categories of UR licensees in use
- Cat 2.A(2)(b) for Active UR Facilities
- Cat 14.A for UR facilities in Decommissioning
- Both categories are “full cost” recovery

Licensee Fees, cont.

- Full cost recovery
 - Billed for hourly inspection and licensing actions taken
- Different from annual fee

Licensee Fees, cont.

- Who is billable?
 - Qualified inspectors (inspections, reports)
 - Project Managers (licensing, reviews)
 - Specialists (hydrogeologists)
- Branch Chief (no charge to licensee)
 - BC observes inspectors and tours the site
- Hourly rate of \$258 (will probably change to \$238/hr)

Licensee Fees, cont.

Annual Fees

- For Operating UR Facilities only
- 10 CFR 171.6 2.A.(2)(b) Class II facilities
- Currently \$18,700 annual

Licensee Fees, cont.

EXAMPLE: Operating ISL Facilities

- Annual Fee 10 CFR 171.16
- Category 2.A(2)(b) Class II Facilities
- Currently = \$18,700

AND

- Hourly Rate for inspection and licensing actions
- Currently \$258/hr (soon to be \$238/hr)

Licensee Fees, cont.

EXAMPLE:

Former UR Sites in Decommissioning

- 10 CFR 170.31 Cat 14.A
- No annual fee
- Charged for inspection and licensing activities at hourly rate \$258/hour

Licensee Fees, cont.

- Proposed annual fee rule published every January
- Licensees have a chance to comment!
- Revised rule usually becomes effective July or August of each year

Licensee Fees, cont.

Billing Contact

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Administrative Changes to Licenses

- Clean up your license!
- Do you know what your license commits you to?
- Submit changes during other necessary amendments (i.e. annual financial assurance update)
- Save time for license reviewers and cost savings for licensee

UR Reports to a New Branch in RIV

Nuclear Materials Safety Branch-B

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