



# ***NRC NEWS***

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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## **NRC EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON DRAFT REVIEW PLAN FOR MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has extended until March 27 the public comment period on its draft plan for the review of a possible future application for a mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility. The original due date for comments was March 13.

The Department of Energy has announced its plans to construct a MOX fuel plant at its Savannah River site in South Carolina to convert surplus weapons-grade plutonium into fuel to power commercial nuclear reactors. Commercial nuclear power plants in the United States currently use uranium as fuel; the mixed oxide fuel would be a combination of uranium and plutonium.

The Standard Review Plan defines standards and criteria that the NRC would use in reviewing an application to decide if there is reasonable assurance that a MOX fuel fabrication facility will be constructed and operated in a manner that will provide reasonable protection of the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment and that will not be inimical to the common defense and security.

A copy of the draft "Standard Review Plan for the Review of an Application for a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility" (NUREG-1718) is available by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Distribution Services, Washington, DC 20555-0001. A copy is also available on the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/SR1718/index.html>

Comments should be submitted to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001. Comments may also be submitted electronically by selecting the "comments" link on the above website.

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