



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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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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