

March 14, 2001

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING ON THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR A PROPOSED MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

TO DISTRIBUTION LIST:

You are invited to attend the public scoping meeting(s) to discuss the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for construction of a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility on the Department of Energy's Savannah River site in South Carolina. The meeting dates, times, and locations are listed below:

**April 17, 2001**

North Augusta Community Center  
495 Brookside Avenue  
North Augusta, South Carolina  
Open House: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Scoping Meeting: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**April 18, 2001**

Coastal Georgia Center  
305 Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Savannah, Georgia  
Open House: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Scoping Meeting: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

These meetings have been noticed in the Federal Register (66 FR 13794). Because you either attended previous meetings or have expressed interest in the MOX facility, we are sending this invitation to ensure you are notified. The meeting locations were chosen to allow public input from individuals living near the proposed MOX facility. Savannah, Georgia, (which is downstream of these other nuclear facilities) was selected to address concerns regarding cumulative impacts from the proposed MOX facility and other nuclear facilities in the vicinity of the proposed MOX facility. Consideration was given to holding a meeting in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area because of the potential to use the MOX fuel in reactors in the vicinity of Charlotte. We anticipate that the EIS will address generic impacts of using MOX fuel in a reactor. Reactor site-specific impacts would be addressed in detail as part of a reactor license amendment review. Therefore, we decided not to hold scoping meetings in the Charlotte area. Public reactor-specific concerns would be addressed as part of a reactor license amendment review. Based on the current schedule, we understand that Duke Energy may submit a license amendment for the McGuire and Catawba reactors in January 2004.

Enclosed is a Fact Sheet that provides details on the MOX project and how to obtain information and documents, the scoping process, the meeting format and agenda, and registration information. Because participants will be divided into smaller "working" groups, we ask that you register early (by April 10, 2001), if possible, so that we can effectively plan the meetings.

Distribution

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Thank you for your interest in this project. We are planning an Open House period before each scoping meeting to informally discuss the project and answer questions. During the scoping meetings, we will provide an overview of the NRC and the proposed MOX project, answer questions, and seek comments from the public on the scope of the EIS. If you have any questions or comments concerning the upcoming meetings or the agenda, please contact me at (301) 415-6613.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Timothy E. Harris, Project Manager  
Environmental and Low-Level Waste Section  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3098

Enclosure: Notice of Intent  
Fact Sheet

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Sincerely,  
 [original signed by]  
 Timothy E. Harris, Project Manager  
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