



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC STAFF TO HOLD MEETING WITH DCS ON NOVEMBER 12 TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR MIXED OXIDE FUEL FACILITY

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will meet with Duke, Cogema, Stone and Webster, or DCS, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, to discuss the company's plans for construction of a mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility at the Department of Energy's Savannah River site in South Carolina.

The meeting will be held in the NRC's Region II offices on the 24th floor of the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street in Atlanta, and will be open to public observation. NRC officials will be available prior to the close of the meeting to answer questions from interested observers.

DCS submitted an application to the NRC for the facility in February 2001. The company has plans to build and operate a MOX facility that would convert surplus weapons-grade plutonium, supplied by the Department of Energy, into fuel for use in commercial nuclear reactors.

DCS must receive NRC approval prior to initiating construction and operation of the mixed oxide processing facility. The facility must be built in accordance with strict safety standards set forth in the agency's regulations. The NRC expects to make a decision on the MOX construction authorization request late next year.

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