

May 5, 2008

Nicolas Vinchon  
US MOX Project Deputy Strategic Leader  
AREVA NC  
33, rue La Fayette  
75442 Paris cedex 09  
France

Dear Mr. Vinchon:

It was a pleasure traveling with you during our recent visit to France to observe fuel cycle facilities. I would like to express my appreciation for your excellent coordination and organization of the visit. Your knowledge of the La Hague and Melox facilities provided helpful insights on the operational experience of reprocessing and fuel fabrication technologies at these facilities. Additionally, I would also like to thank you for the information you provided on the history and culture of France as we traveled to the different destinations.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) uses international operating experience to inform decision making at NRC licensed facilities. The information you provided will be used to inform NRC oversight responsibilities in the construction and potential future operation of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility that is to be built at the Savannah River site in Aiken, South Carolina, as well as potential recycling facilities in the United States.

If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Shawn Rochelle Smith of my staff, at 301-492-3260 or [Shawn.Smith@nrc.gov](mailto:Shawn.Smith@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**  
Michael Weber, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

CC: Michael McMurphy, President  
AREVA NC, Inc.

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