

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC STAFF SCHEDULES MEETING WITH SHAW AREVA MOX SERVICES TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE AT MIXED OXIDE FACILITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting with officials of Shaw Areva MOX Services on April 17 to discuss the results of the Applicant Performance Review for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility currently under construction at the Savannah River site.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. at the Hydrogen Research Center on the Savannah River Research Campus, 301 Gateway Dr., New Ellenton, S.C. People attending the meeting will not be required to go through Savannah River site security. NRC staff members will be available to answer questions or provide information after the formal portion of the meeting.

The NRC review covered the period from Oct. 1, 2011, to Dec. 31, 2012 and concluded that construction activities were consistent with NRC rules and regulations as well as the conditions of the MOX construction authorization. No areas were identified as needing improvement and the NRC plans to continue to conduct its extensive inspection of construction activities at the site.

The MOX facility, being constructed by Shaw Areva MOX Services, is located at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River site near Aiken, S.C. The facility will be owned by the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration and will convert supplies of surplus weapons-grade plutonium into more proliferation-resistant forms by blending it with natural or depleted uranium. Converting the plutonium into MOX fuel will enable it to be used in commercial reactors to generate electricity. The NRC issued a construction authorization for the facility in March 2005.

The <u>performance review letter</u> for the MOX facility is available on the NRC website.

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