



# Mixed Oxide Xchange

## Delay in Issuing FEIS and FSER

On June 20, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) submitted Revision 3 of the Environmental Report (ER). The new revision included updates to responses to NRC requests for additional information, previously submitted corrections to Revisions 1 and 2, and the latest design of the Department of Energy (DOE) / National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Waste Solidification Building (WSB). In ER Revision 3, accident impacts for the WSB were larger than the estimates in Revision 2 of the ER. The NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued in February was based on the estimates in Revision 2. On July 22, DCS submitted additional revisions to the accident impacts for the WSB. During a conference call held on July 28, NRC, DCS and DOE/NNSA staff determined that the revised accident impacts contained errors. This information was revised by DCS and submitted to NRC as Revision 4 on August 13.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed MFFF was originally scheduled to be issued in August. In order to consider the additional information provided by DCS, staff delayed issuance of the FEIS to November 28.

The schedule for issuance of the Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) was also delayed. The staff delayed issuance of the FSER to consider additional information provided by DCS on the open items identified in the April 2003 draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER). The staff plans to issue the FSER on December 5.

## Russian Plutonium Disposition Program

During May 19-30, NRC staff traveled to Moscow, Russia, for a meeting on the Russian Plutonium Disposition Program and for a NRC-Gosatomnadzor workshop on nuclear criticality safety. From July 21 through August 1, NRC staff returned to Russia to conduct a workshop on NRC requirements for electrical systems, instrumentation and control systems, software quality control, and human factors. NRC is currently planning to conduct a workshop in October 2003 on fire safety and chemical safety. These meetings are part of the continuing cooperation between the NRC and NNSA in providing support to the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor.

## Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting

On July 10, NRC staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) full-committee. The presentation consisted of a MOX facility and licensing overview, criticality safety, red oil phenomena, fire protection, and a summary of open items. The ACRS noted at the close of the meeting that they will not write a letter to the Commission until after the staff updates the full committee on the open items.

Find meeting summaries, updates related to the proposed MFFF, frequently asked questions and past issues of the *Mixed Oxide Xchange*.

Go to <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/mox/licensing.html>.

## Meeting Summaries

Summaries of recent meetings with NRC staff regarding the MOX facility are summarized below.

June 2-4, 2003 - NRC staff met with DCS to discuss the chemical safety issues related to the DCS Construction Authorization Request (CAR) for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

June 9-11, 2003 - NRC staff visited Region II offices, then conducted an in-office review of MOX construction inspection and procurement planning and quality assurance program implementation at DCS offices in Charlotte, NC, and Aiken, SC.

July 21- 23, 2003 - NRC staff made presentations at a GAN workshop on MOX fuel qualification in Moscow.

July 22-23, 2003 - NRC staff met with DCS in Charlotte, NC, to conduct an in-office review of DCS resolutions of the HAN/hydrazine open item (open item CS-2).

July 28 - August 1, 2003 - NRC staff made presentations on electrical systems, instrumentation and controls, human factors, and software quality control at a DOE sponsored GAN workshop.

July 29- August 1, 2003 - NRC staff met with DCS to discuss the April 2003 DSER open items that include chemical safety, nuclear criticality, and fire protection. The meeting resulted in closure of one of the items (FS-2).

August 19, 2003 - NRC staff met with Region II staff and management to discuss MOX project schedules and activities, GAN support and MOX design, construction and procurement audits, and inspections.

August 20-21, 2003 - NRC staff met with DCS in Charlotte, NC, for an in-office review of the MOX quality assurance program implementation.

September 11, 2003 - NRC staff met with DCS to discuss the criticality safety open item in the April 2003 DSER.



Lead Editor: David D. Brown  
Editor: Tamara Powell  
Design and Production: Linda M. Gross

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards  
Mail Stop T-8A33  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Mixed Oxide Xchange** is published quarterly to highlight recent news and events associated with the NRC's licensing of a mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility. We welcome your suggestions for improvement of this newsletter. If you have comments or suggestions, you may contact us at [moxfeedback@nrc.gov](mailto:moxfeedback@nrc.gov). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to [subscribe@nrc.gov](mailto:subscribe@nrc.gov). All issues will be e-mailed unless you provide your mailing address and indicate your preference to receive copies by U.S. Postal Service.