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NRC Schedules Open House to Discuss Mixed Oxide Facility Performance

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for April 17 to discuss the agency's assessment of 2017 activities at the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility under construction at the Savannah River site.

The open house is scheduled from 6-7 p.m. in the Garden Conference Room of the Applied Research Center, 301 Gateway Dr., in New Ellenton, S.C. NRC staff members will be available to answer questions and provide information about NRC inspection and oversight of the facility.

The NRC review concluded that construction activities were consistent with NRC rules and regulations as well as the conditions of the MOX construction authorization. There was additional oversight during the first quarter of 2017 due to a past Severity Level III violation related to the procurement of some safety-related components. The NRC will continue its inspections during 2018 at the site appropriate for the level of construction activity.

The MOX facility, being constructed by CB&I AREVA MOX Services, is located at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C. If completed, the site will be owned by the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration and will convert supplies of surplus weapons-grade plutonium into more proliferation-resistant material by blending it with natural or depleted uranium. When converted into mixed oxide, or MOX fuel, it can be used in commercial nuclear reactors to generate electricity.

The MOX facility [performance review letter](#) covering 2017 is available on the NRC website.