



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NRC Report Says MOX Project Meets Safety Requirements**

**AIKEN, S.C., Jan. 3, 2011** – The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued its final safety evaluation report for the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility now under construction at the Savannah River Site near Aiken.

The report, released in December, contains the agency staff's conclusion that the design and operation of the MOX facility will not pose an undue risk to worker and public health and safety.

"We are pleased that the NRC has completed its review and concluded that the MOX facility can be operated safely," said Kelly Trice, president and chief operating officer of Shaw AREVA MOX Services, LLC, which has a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to build, operate and maintain the \$4.8 billion facility. "The health and safety of the public and our employees is first and foremost at every stage of the project."

Issuing the final safety evaluation report is a significant milestone in the licensing process for MOX Services to operate the facility. The objective of the review was to evaluate the facility's potential adverse impact on worker and public health and safety and the environment under both normal operating and accident conditions. The review also considered the physical protection of special nuclear material and classified matter, material control and accounting of the nuclear material as well as management organization and administrative programs to provide for the safe design and operation of the facility.

The report comes on the heels of an NRC applicant performance review issued Nov. 17 that found the MOX facility's construction program, procedure development and project staffing were "sufficiently implemented" to allow construction to support ongoing construction activities. In addition, the applicant performance review concluded the project's performance for the past year was acceptable and no actual or potential risks were identified.

The MOX facility will convert U. S. surplus weapons-grade plutonium into MOX fuel for use in commercial nuclear power plants to produce electricity. The NRC issued a construction authorization to MOX Services in 2005.

The MOX facility is scheduled to begin operation in 2016.

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**About Shaw AREVA MOX Services, LLC**

Shaw AREVA MOX Services, LLC, comprised of The Shaw Group and AREVA, has a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration to design, build and operate a facility to convert surplus weapons-grade plutonium into reactor fuel for use in commercial nuclear power plants. This work supports the Department's non-proliferation program to eliminate surplus weapons-grade plutonium in the U.S. The facility is being built at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. For more information, visit [www.moxproject.com](http://www.moxproject.com).

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Note to reporters: The safety evaluation report is available on the NRC Web site at: [www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html). The number for that document is ML103430615.

The NRC news release is available at [www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/). The number for that news release is 10-225.