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NRC Annual Review of MOX Services Finds No Areas Needing Improvement
MOX Services Also Achieves 6 Million Consecutive Safe Work Hours

AIKEN, S.C., Nov. 29, 2011 – The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reporting that the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility under construction at the Savannah River Site near Aiken is proceeding in an acceptable manner. Because no actual or potentially risk significant recurring items were identified, no areas were identified as meeting the definition of an area needing improvement, according to the NRC annual applicant performance review.

The NRC has a resident inspection team at the project that is supplemented numerous times a year with a larger team of inspectors. The inspections of the MOX facility include construction, equipment, design control, vendor oversight, software and other areas. The NRC annual applicant performance review of the facility covers the period from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011.

“We are very pleased with the NRC’s assessment of our performance for the past year,” said Kelly Trice, president and chief operating officer of Shaw AREVA MOX Services. “Our focus on constructing the MOX facility in the safest manner possible is an ongoing effort in every phase of the project while ensuring that NRC quality and regulatory requirements are met.”

According to the NRC review, the MOX project’s construction program, procedure development and project staffing for the past year were sufficiently implemented to support ongoing construction and no actual or potential risks were identified. In addition, the report said the project’s corrective action program was satisfactory and management and quality assurance oversight was adequately monitored.

The NRC report comes on the heels of the project’s new safety record of surpassing 6 million consecutive work hours without a lost workday due to injury for the project’s approximately 2,000 workforce.

“Hitting 6 million consecutive work hours without a lost workday due to injury is particularly noteworthy because of the size and complexity of the project,” Trice said. “This, combined with our positive NRC inspection report, demonstrates our commitment to safety and excellence on the project.”

The MOX facility is scheduled to begin operation in 2016.

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Shaw AREVA MOX Services, comprised of Shaw's Environmental & Infrastructure Group and AREVA, has a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration to design, build and operate the facility. It will convert surplus weapons-grade plutonium into reactor fuel for use in commercial nuclear power plants, supporting the government's nonproliferation 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.

Note to reporters: The NRC annual applicant performance letter for the MOX facility is available on the NRC Web site at: www.nrc.gov. The number for that document is ML11319A354.



The NRC annual review of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility under construction at the Savannah River Site found no areas that needed improvement.

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