

NRC review of MOX: No violations found

The latest annual Nuclear Regulatory Commission review of the \$4.8 billion Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility under construction at the Savannah River Site determined that construction activities are being conducted in an acceptable manner and no violations were identified.

The review, which covered the period between Oct. 1, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2011, reviewed the construction program and procedure development, project staffing and management and quality assurance oversight of on-site construction activities and found that all were in compliance, according to a letter from the NRC to Shaw AREVA President and CEO Kelly Trice.

"Because no actual or potentially risk significant recurring items were identified, no areas were identified as meeting the definition of an area needing improvement ...," the letter read.

The review also found that the contractor's corrective action program implementation activities were satisfactory.

"We are very pleased with the NRC's assessment of our performance for the past year," Trice said. "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."

The MOX facility, slated to become operational in 2016, will turn surplus weapons-grade plutonium into reactor fuel to be used in commercial nuclear power plants.

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