



Mixed Oxide Xchange

Revised Construction Authorization Request

On October 31, 2002, NRC received from Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) a revised Construction Authorization Request (CAR) for the proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF). If the CAR is approved, the MFFF would be located at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

The revised CAR replaces the original CAR that was submitted in February 2001, and results from changes to the DOE's surplus plutonium disposition program announced early this year. The revised CAR reflects new processes which the design of the proposed MFFF must now incorporate to adequately accommodate the alternate plutonium feedstock materials which were formerly to be immobilized. In the revised CAR, DCS also incorporated information from DCS responses to NRC requests for additional information provided since the original CAR was submitted. DCS also provided additional information in the revised CAR to address NRC open items identified in the NRC Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER).

NRC's Mixed Oxide Fuel Infoweb

To 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>.

NRC Requests Additional Information on the Revised Environmental Report

On October 3, 2002, the NRC submitted to DCS a request for additional information (RAI) regarding the revised Environmental Report (ER) for the proposed MFFF. The revised ER was submitted to NRC in July 2002, and it was decided that additional information would be needed to facilitate the preparation of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to be issued in February 2003.

The RAI contained 66-questions related to the environmental review of the proposed MFFF. A majority of the questions focused on human health, waste management, and air quality issues. The RAI also questioned DCS about transportation, socioeconomic, cost-benefit analysis, cultural and paleontological resources, geology/water use and quality, ecology, cumulative impacts, and land use issues. On October 29, 2002, DCS submitted a 221-page response to the RAI, which the staff is now reviewing.



NRC-DCS Meeting Summaries

Summaries of recent meetings with NRC staff regarding the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility are listed below.

November 12, 2002 - NRC staff and DCS held a meeting open to the public at the NRC's Region II offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and via teleconference, to discuss plans for the potential construction of the proposed MFFF. Topics discussed included: site location, site preparation, site specific issues, temporary construction facilities, and major construction schedules and milestones.

November 21, 2002 - NRC staff and DCS held a meeting open to the public discuss the revised CAR. DCS provided a series of tables that identified the extent to which responses to NRC requests for additional information were incorporated in the revised CAR. A small portion of the meeting was closed to the public in order to discuss proprietary information.

December 10-12, 2002 - NRC staff and DCS held a meeting to discuss chemical safety, fire protection, and electrical/instrumentation and control related to the proposed MFFF. The public was invited to observe this meeting.

Upcoming Meeting



February 20, 2003 - ACRS Subcommittee Meeting, which is open to the public.

ALPHABET SOUP

(commonly used acronyms in this newsletter)

ACRS	Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards	ER	Environmental Report
CAR	Construction Authorization Request	MFFF	Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility
DCS	Duke Cogema Stone & Webster	MOX	Mixed Oxide Exchange
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
DSER	Draft Safety Evaluation Report	PM	Project Manager
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	SER	Safety Evaluation Report

Upcoming Draft EIS

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed MFFF is being prepared by NRC staff and its contractor, Argonne National Laboratory. The DEIS is scheduled for issuance in February 2003 for public comment. The DEIS will examine the environmental impacts of the proposed action (construction, operation and decommissioning of a proposed MFFF) and alternatives. Various Connected actions, including the DOE's proposed Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and the proposed Waste Solidification Building, will also be evaluated in the DEIS.

Public Meetings on Scope of DEIS

On September 17, 18 and 19, 2002, three public meetings were held to solicit comments on whether recent changes in the DOE's surplus plutonium disposition program have affected the scope of the NRC's DEIS for the proposed MFFF. At each meeting, NRC Staff members made presentations for about 35 minutes, followed by a comment period during which those present also asked questions and voiced their concerns. The three public meetings were held in North Augusta, SC; Savannah, GA; and Charlotte, NC, respectively.



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