



For Immediate Release

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## **NRC Annual Review Finds No Areas Needing Improvement at MOX**

AIKEN, S.C., March 6, 2013 – For the third consecutive year, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has concluded that the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility is proceeding in an acceptable manner and no areas were identified that need improvement.

The NRC's most recent annual performance review of the MOX project under construction at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. covers the period from October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. The review marks the third consecutive year the NRC annual report did not identify any areas needing improvement at the MOX project.

“We are very pleased with the NRC's assessment of our performance,” said Kelly Trice, president and chief operating officer of Shaw AREVA MOX Services. “The NRC review underscores our continuing commitment to construct the MOX facility in the safest manner possible while ensuring that all 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 risk significant recurring items were identified. In addition, the report said the project's corrective action program was satisfactory and management and quality assurance oversight adequately monitored construction activities.

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, supplier oversight, software and other areas.

The NRC report comes on the heels of the project's new safety record of surpassing 14 million consecutive work hours in February without a lost workday due to injury for the project's workforce of approximately 2,400 people.

Shaw AREVA MOX Services, LLC has a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to design, build and operate a facility to convert surplus nuclear weapon-grade plutonium into reactor fuel for use in commercial nuclear power plants. This work supports NNSA's nuclear nonproliferation program to eliminate nuclear weapon-grade plutonium in the U.S. Under a 2000 agreement, the United States and Russia will dispose of 68 metric tons of surplus plutonium, sufficient for approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons. For more information, visit [www.moxproject.com](http://www.moxproject.com).

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*Note to reporters: The NRC annual applicant performance letter for the MOX facility is available on the NRC Web site at: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). The number for that document is ML13056A513.*