



Attention: Energy & Water Staffer

April 19, 2014

Senator Lindsey Graham
900 Russell Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Request to Call On Shaw AREVA MOX Services to Release MOX Life-Cycle Cost Estimate & Support for FOIA Request for DOE's Plutonium Disposition Assessment

Dear Senator Graham,

I am writing to you concerning the mismanaged plutonium fuel (MOX) program now being carried out by the Department of Energy. A key part of the problem-plagued MOX program as you know, is the cost of the MOX plant at the Savannah River Site, which has skyrocketed since the earliest estimates for the MOX plant were under \$1 billion.

A robust discussion is needed about how the MOX program has come to be so far over budget and behind schedule. It is thus essential that Shaw AREVA MOX Services immediately release an independently reviewed, reliable cost estimate for the life-cycle of the overall MOX program, including costs associated with the MOX plant. I thus ask that you support my request for such an estimate to be released. You can see my April 15, 2014 letters to both Shaw AREVA MOX Services and AREVA on the Savannah River Site Watch website and you will note that I pointed out concerns of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) about lack of a "high-quality, reliable" estimate for the MOX program's life-cycle cost.

Likewise, it is essential that the Department of Energy release the results of its internal assessment of plutonium disposition options, including MOX, immobilization in high-level waste and via disposal in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). I filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the assessment in late December 2013 but have so far not received the requested document. I thus ask that you take action to make sure that I receive an affirmative response to my FOIA request. On receipt of the document, I will make it public.

Given that the MOX program has become a text-book case of DOE's failure to properly manage and oversee a complex construction project, I'm sure that you will work on behalf of tax payers to hold managers at DOE, the National Nuclear Security Administration and Shaw AREVA MOX Services accountable for their chronic mistakes in allowing the program to run so far off the rails.

Sincerely,

Tom Clements
Director

