



Savannah River Site Watch

**Savannah River Site Watch  
For Immediate Release  
November 21, 2016**

**SRS Watch Releases New Aerial Photos of Plutonium Fuel (MOX) Plant at Savannah River Site**

***MOX Worker Stand Down on November 17 Due to Safety Incidents? NNSA Won't Confirm***

***Organization Files FOIA Request for Documents, Photos from SRS Drone Scare of Summer 2016***

Columbia, SC – The public interest organization Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch) has obtained a news series of aerial photos of the plutonium fuel (MOX) plant construction site at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina and is hereby releasing them.

"As both DOE and the MOX contractor, CB&I AREVA MOX Services, are failing to release MOX photos or inform the public about the status of the mismanaged MOX project, SRS Watch is providing a needed public service and releasing the photos," according to Tom Clements, director of SRS Watch.

The photos were legally taken and in full compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, including pertaining to the voluntary altitude of 2000 feet over DOE facilities. The photos, anonymously supplied to SRS Watch, can be used with this credit: "©High Flyer-2016."

The photos reveal a small change in the appearance outside the MOX plant since photos were given to SRS Watch in June 2016. Of significance, what is believed to be the "south electrical building" foundation is visible on the south side of the MOX plant. It is rumored that some tubular steel piping in the facility burst and the cause of the problem likely needs to be identified. The walls of the building are likely to go up soon and SRS Watch will be watching for this change in subsequent photos.

**The photos are linked from the "photos" section on the SRS Watch website:**

<http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srs-mox-nov-10-2016-img-9622.jpg>

<http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srs-mox-nov-10-2016-img-9625.jpg>

<http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srs-mox-nov-10-2016-img-9632.jpg>

<http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srs-mox-nov-10-2016-img-9822.jpg> (MOX plant in background, shuttered F-Canyon reprocessing plant in foreground.)

<http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srs-nov-10-2016-img-9837.jpg>

Also see larger-screen versions of the photos at the bottom right on the “photos” section – under “audio & video” - on the SRS Watch website: <http://www.srswatch.org/photos.html>

Concerning aerial overview of SRS, SRS Watch has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents and photos related to the DOE-stimulated “drone scare” over the site in the Summer of 2016. The FOIA request also applies to the SRS security contractor [Centers-SRS](#).

Drone FOIA request dated November 14, 2016 to SRS:

[http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/drone\\_srs\\_overflight\\_foia\\_nov\\_14\\_2016.pdf](http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/drone_srs_overflight_foia_nov_14_2016.pdf)

The SRS Office of External Affairs sent out a number of alerts beginning in June 2016 about drones over SRS but never pinpointed reason for the scare, if any laws or regulations had been broken or if any security threat was posed. SRS never documented the existence of drones to the public. Drone overflight from offsite appears to be legal, according to FAA regulations.

SRS Watch also received calls from the public and SRS workers about drones but as the organization has no information about them and as DOE has failed to release documentation about them the FOIA request was filed.

On Friday, November 18, 2016, SRS Watch received undocumented information that the craft workers at the MOX construction site were placed on a “stand down” by CB&I AREVA MOX Services president David Del Vecchio. SRS Watch was told that the stand down was due to increasing accident rate and negative trend in safety incidents. SRS Watch has not been able to confirm any stand down as CB&I AREVA MOX Services has predictably failed to inform the public about the situation or recent accidents at the MOX site. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has failed to respond to an SRS Watch inquiry on the matter.

“CB&I AREVA MOX Services and the NNSA are attempting to hide behind a tattered curtain of unjustified secrecy but one day soon the truth will come out concerning chronic waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement by those who have badly mismanaged the MOX project over the past decade,” according to Tom Clements of SRS Watch.

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**Contact:**

Tom Clements  
Director, SRS Watch  
Columbia, South Carolina  
tel. 803-834-3084  
cell 803-240-7268

--- photos also posted here, at top of pages:

<http://www.srswatch.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteWatch>