



Savannah River Site Watch

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For Immediate Release

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Plutonium Fuel (MOX) Contractors Called on to Release Life-Cycle Cost of Mismanaged Project

Columbia, SC – Given that spiraling costs for the plutonium fuel (MOX) program at the DOE's Savannah River Site (SRS) have been hidden from the public, Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch) has requested that both Shaw AREVA MOX Services and AREVA immediately release their life-cycle cost estimates for the overall MOX program.

Both DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNA) and Shaw AREVA MOX Services have hidden the life-cycle cost of the MOX project from the public, according to SRS Watch. "It's far beyond time when costs of the mismanaged MOX project were made public and it is incumbent on Shaw AREVA MOX Services to finally release their life-cycle cost estimate," said Tom Clements, director of SRS Watch.

In letters of April 15 to Kelly Trice, president of Shaw AREVA MOX Services, and David Jones, vice president of AREVA, it was noted that the Government Accountability Office had seen the contractor's cost estimate and that it was deemed to be "minimally credible" and that the assessment did not meet GAO's guidelines for making a "high-quality cost estimate."

As an official of AREVA, vice president David Jones, has publicly challenge DOE's figure of \$30 billion for the MOX program's life cycle cost, it's time for AEVA's cost estimate to be made public. "Given the massive problems with the MOX programs, it is imperative the contractor develop a high-quality, reliable cost estimate for the MOX program and there is only one way to demonstrate that – release the estimate so it can be scrutinized by the public," said Clements.

Clements noted in the letters that he has also requested via a Freedom of Information Act request filed in December 2013 that DOE's plutonium disposition assessment be released. There has been no response to that request.

See December 23, 2013 FOIA request at:

http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/plutonium_disposition_assessment_foia_december_23_2013.pdf

The only public cost estimate of the remaining amount of money to be spent on the MOX program was prepared by Clements in April 2013.

See estimate at:

http://www.srswatch.org/uploads/2/7/5/8/27584045/srsw_mox_cost_looking_forward_april_2013.pdf

The estimate by Clements determined that about \$22 billion was left to be spent on the MOX program, on top of the \$5 billion already sunk. "My MOX life-cycle cost estimate has not been challenged in any way and, though I may have underestimated costs, I stand by it," said Clements.

"As my estimate methodology is far from perfect, it is far beyond time when NNSA and Shaw AREVA MOX Services release reliable, independently reviewed costs estimates as the public has the right to know what the true costs of the project. Given that DOE has called the project "unsustainable," AREVA has to opportunity to challenge that claim and make a full, documented case about costs and how the tax payer can fund MOX over the next decades," said Clements.

"Likewise, as politicians such as Senator Lindsey Graham and Representative Joe Wilson have stood up in blind support for continued funding for the failed MOX program, they must also release their life-cycle cost estimates, while calling on NNSA and Shaw AREVA MOX Services to release their estimates," added Clements.