

Kyushu Electric Signs Contract with MHI on MOX Supply

On September 28, the Kyushu Electric Power Co. announced that it had signed a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) for the supply of MOX fuel to be used at its Genkai-3 NPS (PWR, 1,180 MW). The MOX fuel will actually be produced at Areva's Melox Plant in southern France, through Comcox, the Areva group's contact in France to whom MHI will entrust the order.

Kyushu Electric's MOX-use program – now making more concrete progress than any other in Japan – aims at the first loading of MOX fuel in 2010. To implement its MOX-use program, the power utility filed an application with the government in May 2004 for permission to change a reactor installation, at the same time as it was submitting petitions to Saga Prefecture and Genkai Town for preliminary consents in accordance with its safety agreements with those municipalities. The government granted permission in September 2005, and the prefecture and the town gave their preliminary consents in March of this year.

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