

Shikoku Electric Signs Contract for Manufacture of MOX Fuel for Ikata-3

On November 22, the Shikoku Electric Power Co. announced that it had signed a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. (MHI) for the manufacture of MOX fuel to be loaded in Unit 3 (PWR, 890MW) of the Ikata NPS by fiscal 2010 (starting on April 1, 2010).

In implementing its terms of the contract with Shikoku Electric, MHI will commission the fuel manufacture to Melox, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AREVA of France. MHI will be in charge of fuel design, parts procurement, and local quality assurance, while Melox will handle the actual manufacture of the MOX fuel.

The contract was signed on November 28 at Avignon in southern France, near the site of the Melox Plant. Both Pres. Momoki Tokiwa of Shikoku Electric and Managing Director Yoshimi Uratani of MHI were present at the ceremony.

Having already commissioned the reprocessing of its spent fuel to the U.K. and France, Shikoku Electric now maintains 600kg of plutonium in each country. The recently-signed contract will use up the entire amount of plutonium that Shikoku Electric owns in France to manufacture 21 MOX fuel rods, which will then be returned to Japan by ship. During the manufacture of the fuel, employees from Shikoku Electric will be stationed in the Melox Plant to check on the progress of the manufacturing as well as product quality.

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