

## **Reprocessing Plant Not to Be Finished Until February**

**At a regular press conference held on September 7, President Isami Kojima of Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (JNFL) made a number of announcements, one of which was that the completion of the company's reprocessing plant would be pushed back from November 2007 to February 2008, and another saying that the start of construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant would probably be changed from the current schedule of October.**

On the same day, JNFL filed an application with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for permission to change the construction plan of the reprocessing plant, and duly reported the change to local municipalities.

The fourth step in the current active testing did not begin until the end of August, four months later than originally planned. As to why only three months – not four – was chosen as the period for the delay in completion, the JNFL president explained that the shearing facility was actually able to shear spent fuel at a higher rate than expected, and that one month could thus be saved in the fourth and fifth steps.

The decision to postpone the start of construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant (named J-MOX) is based on the status of the national safety examination. Pres. Kojima said the outlook for the start would be announced after confirming the progress of the examination.

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