

## **Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant Yields First MOX Product on November 2 - the reprocessing plant does not produce pure, separated, Plutonium -**

Tokyo, November 2, 2006 -- The Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, which has been undergoing final commissioning tests, yields its first production of mixed uranium-plutonium (U-Pu) oxide (MOX) on November 2, 2006. The plant does not produce any separated (i.e., pure) plutonium, as it uses the U-Pu co-denitration process, a proliferation-resistant technology developed in Japan.

Unlike other reprocessing plants abroad, the final product of the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant is MOX, made up of U and Pu in equal quantities. As is, the MOX cannot serve as the raw material of nuclear weapons, thus providing strong resistance to nuclear proliferation. The plant is also under stringent full-scope safeguards (nuclear inspections) by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which provides robust non-proliferation credibility.

Since October 27, Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (JNFL), the owner and operator of the reprocessing plant, has been conducting tests on the U-Pu co-denitration process, which resulted in the production of first MOX today. The plant is expected to start producing MOX powder in mid-November.

The MOX produced by the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant is a quasi-domestic energy source, contributing to Japan's energy supply as well as to global environmental protection. JNFL is committed to carrying out various tests at the plant in a careful, step-by-step fashion. The Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, which has 800 ton/year reprocessing capacity, is planned to start its commercial operation in mid-2007.

---

---

### **Press contact**

Tomohiko Kita

General Manager, Department of Information and Communication

Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF)

Phone: +81-3-6812-7103 FAX: +81-3-6812-7110 E-mail: [kita@jaif.or.jp](mailto:kita@jaif.or.jp)