



Restart Readiness Assessment Exit Meeting for NFS' Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆) Process

August 16, 2011

OBJECTIVE

To convey the results of NRC's assessment of NFS' readiness to restart the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) process

Background

January 7, 2010: NRC confirmatory action letter issued.

March 24, 2011: NFS notified NRC of readiness to restart the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) process

Background

May 2, 2011:

NRC Commenced Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection of the uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) process.

July 12, 2011:

NRC authorized NFS to restart the uranium hexafluoride process.

Restart Readiness Assessment Team Exit

NRC Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection

Team Leader:

Manuel Crespo, Senior Fuel Facility Inspector

Team Members:

Merritt Baker, Senior Project Manager

Jennifer Foster, Fuel Facility Inspector

Omar López, Senior Fuel Facility Inspector

Christian Fisher, Fuel Facility Inspector

Michelle Romano, Fuel Facility Inspector

Inspection Objectives

- Verify that the confirmatory action letter's "Actions Prior to Restart of Operations" were satisfactorily completed with regard to the uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) process.
- Verify that the confirmatory action letter's four management issues were being addressed.
- Assess the licensee's readiness to restart the uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) process.

Inspection Conclusions

- NFS satisfactorily completed the confirmatory action letter's "Actions Prior to Restart of Operations."
- The corrective actions and process modifications implemented by NFS were reasonable and had sufficient likelihood of being effective to support safe operation of the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) process.

Inspection Conclusions

- The inspectors noted one minor violation regarding the implementation of a procedure modification and verified that NFS took appropriate actions to address the issue.
- Review of procedures, maintenance, corrective action program, process safety basis, and management oversight demonstrated a readiness to safely restart the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) process.

Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆) Process

- NRC reviewed the following five areas as they pertain to the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) process.
 - Procedures
 - Maintenance
 - Corrective action program open items
 - Design basis
 - Management oversight

Inspection of Management Issues

- Adequate oversight of facility process changes
- Methodical approach to restart to address perceived production pressures
- Demonstration of questioning attitude
- Continued improved communications

NRC Team Summary

- NFS satisfactorily completed the confirmatory action letter's "Actions Prior to Restart."
- The corrective actions implemented by NFS were reasonable and had sufficient likelihood of being effective to support safe operations.
- Corrective actions to address the management issues were observed to be effective.

NRC Authorization Process

- NRC Authorization Steps Indicated in Confirmatory Action Letter
 - NRC Inspection of Completed Actions
 - NRC Management Assessment
 - Decision to Restart Authorized in Writing

Questions