COST OVERRUNS AND DELAYS

- The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) told Congress in 2002 MOX would be fully operational in three years and cost $4 billion.
- 15 years later, $5 billion has already been spent on construction, and life-cycle cost estimates — which include finishing construction and operating the plant for 20 years — fall anywhere between $25.1 billion and $110 billion, depending on annual appropriations from Congress.
- The FY2016 omnibus spending bill appropriated $350 million for MOX. Continued funding at this level will cost $110 billion and delay completion to the year 2100.

SUPPLY WITHOUT DEMAND

- The MOX facility lost its only potential customer in 2008. The contractor in charge of the project hasn’t found a single party willing to purchase MOX fuel.
- MOX fuel was used in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor. In light of that disaster, MOX fuel is unlikely to attract new customers before undergoing significant safety testing.

SECURITY VULNERABILITIES:

- In the event of a terrorist threat, nuclear facilities must be able to verify the location of all special nuclear materials within 72 hours.
- If nuclear materials were stolen from MOX, it could take 180 days — 60 times the safety requirement — to physically verify the presence of all special nuclear materials at the facility.

WHAT’S THE ALTERNATIVE?

- Independent experts have concluded that the “dilute and dispose” method would be significantly cheaper, faster, and less risky over all. Savings could be as high as $92 billion.
- Disposal can be done more cheaply and effectively at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, which already contains similarly diluted plutonium and will reopen in December 2016.
- The Energy Department can exercise options under the current Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement to re-open negotiations with Russia and has stated that Russian officials are open to such discussions.

FOR MORE ON MOX, VISIT POGO.ORG OR CONTACT:

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MOX is placed on cold-standby. NNSA estimates life-cycle cost as:

- Life-cycle cost estimates include the cost of building the facility and operating it for approximately 20 years.
- A project years behind schedule, 1000% over budget.
- MOX: The ultimate money pit
- Construction actually begins ... and has not yet ended

NNSA signs MOX deal with Russia

NNSA initial life-cycle* cost estimate:
- $4 billion
- $3 billion spent
- $5 billion spent

When MOX was supposed to be fully constructed

Life-cycle cost if funding stays at $350 mn/year:
- $47.5 billion

Life-cycle cost, only if funding increases to $500mn/year:
- $110 billion

*Life-cycle cost estimates include the cost of building the facility and operating it for approximately 20 years.