

United States
Department of Energy

Secretary's Improvement Award

Presented to:

The National Nuclear Security Administration's Steam Plant Life Extension (SPLE) Project

The SPLE team demonstrated outstanding project management acumen in recognizing the need to re-scope the project and successfully delivered a new natural gas-fired plant utilizing packaged boilers that met or exceeded all mission requirements. Following completion of Title II design, project costs were estimated to exceed the baseline by \$27M. Drawing upon lessons learned on similar projects, value engineering studies, and cost evaluations, the project team determined that a new, smaller and more efficient facility could be constructed within the available funding utilizing natural gas-fired, low-emission, packaged boiler systems, a boiler feed water treatment system, and the requisite ancillary utilities and control systems. The gas-fired boilers have significantly reduced air emissions (e.g. sulfur and nitrogen pollutants by more than 90%) from the steam plant compared to the World War II-era coal-fired boilers previously used. As the project neared completion, the old steam plant encountered serious problems and steam pressure had to be curtailed. The project team accelerated final testing and tie-in of the new plant to provide steam to meet critical winter demand – several months ahead of CD-4 and within the original CD-2 approved baseline. The project team is to be commended for a job well done.

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy

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