

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NMEu EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

Subject: Unplanned Outage of the HFR Reactor

Brussels 24 January 2022

Nuclear Medicine Europe was informed by NRG, the operator of the HFR reactor in Petten, Netherlands, that the HFR did not resume operations as planned on January 20, 2022 due to the detection of a water leak in the reactor beam tube cooling system. There was no risk to workers or the general public and HFR remains in safe stand-by status pending investigation of the root cause of the leak.

The Nuclear Medicine Europe Emergency Response Team held a call on January 24, 2022 with representatives of HFR to receive an update on the situation. HFR stated that endoscopic inspections of difficult to access piping have been performed but not yet revealed the root cause of the leak. Additional inspections are foreseen this week. The NRG project team in place will determine what kind of actions will be required to address the leak and enable the reactor to return to service after regulatory review and approval.

NMEu has been advised that targets were scheduled to be irradiated in the HFR reactor for both Mo-99 and Lu-177 production and that the delayed restart will impact the supply of these radioisotopes in the coming week(s). Medical institutions should contact their radioisotope suppliers to determine the specific impact on their orders.

NRG will provide a further update on January 31 and NMEu will communicate with stakeholders at that time or as soon as further information is available.

Bernard Ponsard,
Chairman ERT

Ira Goldman,
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