

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NMEu EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

Subject: HFR Reactor Outage – Medical Isotope Supply Returning to Normal

Brussels 15 February 2022

The Nuclear Medicine Europe Emergency Response Team held a call on 14 February 2022 on the unplanned HFR outage that resulted in cancellation of the planned HFR first operating cycle of 2022. NMEu was informed by HFR reactor operator NRG that the project team is progressing and a plan to restore the reactor cooling function, including supporting safety analyses, is being reviewed by NRG’s reactor safety committee before submission to the Dutch nuclear safety authority ANVS this week. NRG is also elaborating the licensing requirements for the chosen solution and after approval by ANVS, the solution will be implemented. NRG is targeting to restart the HFR reactor on 17 March for its second cycle of 2022, noting that the licensing and execution of restoring the cooling function still have to be performed. NRG will provide the next update on Monday 21 February 2022.

The ERT was again provided updates from research reactors and Mo-99 producers concerning various measures that have been undertaken to expand medical radioisotope supply. In recent weeks, the MARIA research reactor has added additional operating days, which has helped to reduce the loss of HFR capacity. The BR2 reactor resumed operations last Saturday morning 12 February - three days earlier than originally planned - and Curium has already harvested Mo-99 targets from short irradiations at BR2 and is now processing Mo-99 for customers. In addition, IRE will resume production on its High Enriched Uranium production line later this week. As a result of all these measures, supply of Mo-99/Tc-99m and Lu-177 is expected to return to normal within one week, I-131 should be back to normal during the first half of March.

NMEu will communicate again with stakeholders on 21 February 2022.

Bernard Ponsard,
Chairman ERT

Ira Goldman,
Chairman NMEu SoS WG

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For the Processors:	David Achiolas IRE Auke Attema, Curium
For the Generators:	Ira Goldman, LMI Revital Melzer, GE Healthcare Nil Neda Bedro, Monrol
By invitation:	Ronald Schram, NRG Jelmer Offerein, NRG
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