

Communication from NMEU to EU Observatory for the Supply of Medical Radioisotopes
Restart Delay of the HFR Reactor

Brussels, 25 March 2024

As previously communicated, Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEU) was informed by NRG that on Thursday March 21st, during the procedure for startup of the High Flux Reactor (HFR), a deviation in the cooling system was found and the HFR cycle 2024 - 02 did not start as planned.

NRG informed NMEU today during a meeting of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) that NRG concluded that a modification to the cooling system is required before startup and during the past weekend a technical solution was selected, which is currently being engineered. Following a successful review process, the modification will be implemented. Although NRG aims to start cycle 2024 - 02 as soon as possible, the current estimation is that this is not before the end of next week. NRG will provide a status-update to NMEU by end of day Wednesday March 27th.

The ERT was also informed today that the LVR-15 research reactor accepted to irradiate more targets and the MARIA reactor is modifying its planned schedules to compensate for the unscheduled HFR outage. The BR2 reactor has also scheduled additional irradiations prior to the end of its current operating cycle scheduled on Friday March 29th.

As a result, NMEU does not expect any disruptions to Mo-99 during the current week. However, some limited shortages may be anticipated next week.

NMEU will continue to carefully monitor the situation and will provide an update on March 27th.

SIGNED

Bernard Ponsard
Chairman SoS WG
Chairman ERT

Ira Goldman
Vice-Chairman SoS WG

The Emergency Response Team

For the Reactors:

For the Processors:

For the Generators:

By invitation

SOS Supervisor:
Rapporteur:

Bernard Ponsard, Chairman ERT, SCK CEN

Jean-Guy Dronneau, IRE

Frank de Lange, Curium

Ira Goldman, LMI

Nassar Hussein, GE Healthcare

Nil Neda Bedro, Monrol Europe

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