

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

Brussels, 14 October 2024

The NMEU Emergency Response Team (ERT) met today to discuss a new update provided by NRG concerning the current delay in the restart of the HFR reactor originally planned for 10 October.

As previously communicated by NRG a technical solution was envisaged to be implemented in the December 2024 maintenance stop and is therefore in an advanced phase of development. The solution is however subject to a testing phase which is aimed at qualifying, amongst others, the materials used as part of the design. The qualification has not yet been successful. As long as this is not finalized, NRG cannot provide a planned start date and the current best estimate is that it will take at least a few weeks to finalize. Consequently, the start of the planned October cycle has become very unlikely. NRG will provide a new status update on late afternoon Friday October 18th.

The ERT meeting discussed possible modifications to the planned maintenance schedules of other reactors in order to mitigate the negative impact that will occur if the HFR cycle is cancelled. However, it appears unlikely that any significant changes are possible.

Nuclear Medicine Europe and NRG understand that there is likely to be a significant impact on the supply of medical radioisotopes in the coming weeks. We anticipate that shortages of Mo-99 to Tc-99m generator manufacturers will begin later this week and increase next week. Shortages could be as high as 40% of usual requirements though it will vary in different geographic regions with some areas experiencing little or no impact. It is advised that stakeholders communicate with their Tc-99m generator suppliers to understand the likely impact to each customer. Procedures used in past shortage situations should be reactivated including the use of alternate imaging modalities where appropriate.

Nuclear Medicine Europe will issue a new communication early the week of October 21 or earlier if significant new information becomes available.

SIGNED

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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:

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