

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

Brussels 5 May 2023

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 4 May 2023 (HFR cycle 2023-02) due to detection of an increase in the amount of water that is leaking from the reactor pool. This water is collected in dedicated tanks that are part of the reactor design.

The Nuclear Medicine Europe Emergency Response Team held a call on 5 May 2023 with representatives of NRG/HFR to receive an update on the situation. They stated that inspections have been performed and an analysis has determined the cause of the leak. The NRG/HFR team is interacting with the Dutch regulator to determine what actions need to be performed to permit restart of the reactor.

NMEU notes that the BR2 reactor is currently operating until 18 May and it has been able to increase the number of targets being irradiated and therefore there is no current impact to the supply of medical radioisotopes.

NRG will provide a further update on 9 May and NMEU will communicate with stakeholders at that time.

SIGNED

Bernard Ponsard
Chairman ERT

Ira Goldman
Chairman NMEU SoS WG

For the reactors:	Bernard Ponsard, Chairman ERT, SCK CEN
For the Processors:	David Achiolas, Jean-Guy Dronneau, Erich Kolleger, IRE Auke Attema, Curium
For the Generators:	Ira Goldman, LMI Nil Neda Bedro, Monrol
By invitation	Ronald Schram, NRG
Rapporteur	Bram Van Malderen, NMEU

