



## COMMUNICATION FROM NMEU TO EU OBSERVATORY FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL RADIOISOTOPES

### Global Mo-99 and I-131 Production Impacted by Delay of Two Reactors Restarting from Scheduled Maintenance

Brussels, 20 October 2022

Nuclear Medicine Europe advises the nuclear medicine community that periodic Mo-99 and I-131 supply disruptions are being experienced at the current time and are likely to increase through the first week of November due to delays of two research reactors which irradiate targets for producing these radioisotopes in returning to service from planned outages.

The SAFARI research reactor in South Africa had planned to return to service on October 14 from scheduled maintenance. However, a mechanical problem delayed the restart. The problem has been resolved and the reactor is now on schedule to restart on Saturday October 22.

Nuclear Medicine Europe has been informed by SCK-CEN, the operator of the BR2 reactor, that a mechanical failure was detected during inspections that took place during the current maintenance period of the reactor. This mechanical issue has no effect on safety, but analysis indicated the need for further investigations and repair measures. This will impact the start of the next BR2 reactor cycle scheduled to begin on Friday October 28. An NMEU Emergency Response Team (ERT) meeting took place on October 20 during which SCK-CEN advised that while no formal re-start date has yet been established, a delay of 3 - 7 days in restart is currently anticipated.

NMEU is closely monitoring the situation and will provide further communication to the nuclear medicine community after the next Emergency Response Team meeting on Monday October 24.

SIGNED

Ira Goldman  
Chairman NMEU WG SoS

Bernard Ponsard  
Chairman ERT

**For the reactors:**

**Bernard Ponsard, Chairman ERT, SCK CEN**

**For the Processors:**

**David Achiolas IRE**

**Auke Attema, Curium**

**For the Generators:**

**Ira Goldman, LMI**

**Revital Melzer, GE, Healthcare**

**Nil Neda Bedro and Harun Seckin, Monrol**

**By invitation:**

**Marjolijn Droog, NRG**

**Piet Louw, NTP**

**Rapporteur**

**Bram Van Malderen, NMEU**

