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INTRODUCTION

Dear Nuclear Medicine professional,

Since summer 2008, our community has become aware of the fragility of the supply chain of Tc99m generators. While it is clear now that no short term solution will allow us to avoid supply disruption over the next 2 years, our teams remain committed to minimize the impact of this crisis on Nuclear Medicine departments.

In the last year, IBA has reorganized its generators supply processes in order to ensure a fair and minimal level of supply to its customers in disrupted times. We are also actively putting in place now production capability to provide you with alternative non-technetium products during the most severe shortage periods foreseen for next year. Finally, our Group is finalizing a 60 Mio Euros investment plan that is making our central radiopharmaceutical facility the most advanced in the world, in line with the strictest safety and quality standards.

As part of our ongoing support, we are pleased to provide you with this Molybdenum supply review. This monthly newsletter is keeping you up to date with the latest Molybdenum supply developments by consolidating the major news and scientific articles published recently.

Our team remains at your disposal for further information.

LATEST NEWS

HOME

INDUSTRIALS

Chalk River nuclear reactor shutdown has cost nearly \$40 million

December 16, 2009, SNM SmartBrief

The downed nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, which was closed in May owing to heavy-water leak, had already cost Atomic Energy of Canada nearly \$40 million by the end of October, according to internal AECL data acquired by Canwest News Service. AECL also said it lost about \$12 million in revenue because of the shutdown. An AECL official projected in October that the total cost of the shutdown would reach about \$70 million.

Lantheus to get Mo-99 shipments

December 18, 2009, AuntMinnie

Lantheus Medical Imaging of North Billerica, MA, has finalized an arrangement with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) to receive molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) produced from low-enriched uranium (LEU) targets in ANSTO's new OPAL reactor.

South Korea should consider building its own reactor

December 21, 2009, SNM SmartBrief

The South Korean government's cancellation of a budget for radioisotope research and production in 2010 is shortsighted, particularly amid an ongoing shortage of the isotope molybdenum-99, according to this editorial in The Korea Herald. Hospitals across the country reportedly have seen a 50% to 70% reduction in bone scans as a result of the shortage, and now is the time to seriously think about establishing the country's own research reactor, the editorial said.

AECL requests uranium from U.S.

January 7, 2010, AuntMinnie

Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) last month requested 16.3 kg of high-enriched uranium (HEU) that it may need to resume production of medical isotopes once its National Research Universal nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, is repaired.

Technetium supply to tighten further

January 20, 2010, Diagnostic Imaging

The already constrained supply of technetium in the U.S. could get even tighter in the coming weeks. The Dutch High Flux Reactor at Petten, the Netherlands, is scheduled to go down for repairs lasting until August. And restart of the reactor at Chalk River, in Ontario, which was supposed to offset this loss and, eventually, normalize the supply of molybdenum-99 and the technetium it generates, may be delayed.

Reactor shutdowns force Covidien to cut generator production in March**January 20, 2010, Health Imaging**

Covidien has announced that because of the shutdowns of the five major isotope-producing reactors at various times, it will cease generator production in the Americas from March 21 to 25 and from March 20 to 23 in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. "The remainder of March will be only marginally better, with no more than 20% of needed Mo-99 supply expected," the company said. Covidien said it will distribute on-hand generators appropriately and is urging clinicians to implement isotope-conservation initiatives.

MDS sees revenue decline, but could be processing medical isotopes by April: CEO**January 22, 2010, SNM SmartBrief**

Atomic Energy of Canada's plan to restart the National Research Universal reactor in March would allow MDS to start processing medical isotopes by April, CEO Steve West said. The company said it saw a decrease of about 40% in its fiscal fourth-quarter revenue because of the shutdown of the reactor, its sole isotope supplier. The company is continuing with its efforts to have the aborted MAPLE project resurrected

South Korea eyes Dutch research reactor project**January 25, 2010, SNM SmartBrief**

The Netherlands' decision to stop the contractor-selection process for the building of the PALLAS research reactor presents a new opportunity for South Korean firms to bid for the project, the South Korean government said. If the Dutch government decides to push through with the project, South Korean firms will take measures to get the deal, the government said, citing that although the bidding process has been stopped, the project itself has not been canceled.

SNM Applauds U.S. Department of Energy's Move to Develop Domestic Radioisotope Supply**January 27, 2010, SNM SmartBrief**

SNM applauds a move by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to help fund the development of a domestic supply of radioisotopes, which are used to help millions of patients each year through the diagnosis and staging of cancer, thyroid and heart disease.

AECL confirms delay for Chalk River**January 29, 2010, AuntMinnie**

Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) confirmed that it has delayed the anticipated restart for its National Research Universal (NRU) nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, to April.

NRG looking for new Pallas builder**February 2, 2010, AuntMinnie**

Dutch radiopharmaceutical producer Nuclear Research and Consultancy Group (NRG) may put its proposed 80-megawatt nuclear research reactor back out to bid after reportedly breaking off negotiations with its first choice to build the facility.

EXPERTS OPINIONS**Researchers from Sherbrooke produce technetium 99m with a cyclotron****January 20, 2010, Google alert**

Canadian researchers used a cyclotron to produce the medical isotope technetium 99m. The researchers said the cyclotron-produced isotopes were comparable to those produced through a nuclear reactor. «The next step is to optimize production to yield technetium 99m in quantities sufficient to meet the daily demand of local hospitals,» a researcher said.

Isotope crisis deepens with Dutch reactor shutdown**February 7, 2010, Google alert**

Canadian medical officials are bracing for "significant shortages" of a key isotope used to perform imaging tests and warning a lack of supply this spring could hamper diagnoses of life-threatening illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.

Tories need plan for isotope shortage: Ignatieff**February 9, 2010, SNM SmartBrief**

The Canadian Liberals on Tuesday held a discussion on the medical isotope crisis with local and international experts, including doctors, professors, isotope distributors and the Association of Imaging Producers and Equipment Suppliers, the group coordinating the scheduled maintenance of reactors worldwide. Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said the Conservative government needs to have an action plan to address the isotope shortage, which is expected to worsen with the shutdown for maintenance of the Dutch reactor later this month.

USERS**Canada's isotope shortage still a crisis: doctors****January 4, 2010, Google alert**

Even with the prospect of the nuclear reactor in Ontario being back online as scheduled in spring, the effects of the medical isotope shortage would likely continue to be felt, Canadian doctors said. The real impact of the shortage would be seen in a few years, when patients are finally diagnosed with advanced conditions, including heart problems and cancer, an expert said.

Doctors concerned a further delay at Chalk River would be 'extremely serious'**January 11, 2010, Google alert**

Patients awaiting treatment - mainly for heart ailments and cancer - may suffer as a result of any further delay between the shutdown of the Dutch reactor and the re-opening of Chalk River. The isotopes shortage has been a costly crisis for the provinces. In Quebec, Health Minister Yves Bolduc estimated the crisis has so far cost the province \$10 million. The extra costs are for both to the workforce and the purchase of foreign isotopes. Legault estimates the costs of overtime work alone runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

And Jean-Luc Urbain, president of the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine, Urbain noted the cost of medical technetium isotopes has jumped 30 per cent.

An automated method for preparation of [(18)F]sodium fluoride for injection, USP to address the technetium-99m isotope shortage.

Hockley BG, Scott PJ.

The University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Appl Radiat Isot. 2010 Jan;68(1):117-9.

The worldwide shortage of technetium-99m has created an immediate and urgent need for access to [(18)F]sodium fluoride for PET imaging of bone metastasis. In order to facilitate global availability of [(18)F]sodium fluoride for diagnostic nuclear medicine imaging procedures, a straightforward method for rapid production of [(18)F]sodium fluoride for injection, USP, using a modified GE Tracerlab FX-FN is presented.

LINKS

IBA Molecular.

Society of Nuclear Medicine.

European Association Of Nuclear Medicine.

Sociedad Espanola de Medicina Nuclear.

Société Française de Médecine Nucléaire.

Société Belge de Médecine Nucléaire.

Nederlandse Vereniging voor Nucleaire geneeskunde.

Associa Italiana di Medicina Nucleare ed Imaging Molecolare.

British Nuclear Medicine Society.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nuklearmedizin e.V.

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