

AECL Press Release

NRU Status Report

Chalk River, Ontario, 2008 December 12 — Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) NRU reactor was restarted on Thursday, December 11, following the completion of a maintenance outage. Today, the NRU reactor is operating at high power and the medical isotope production process has resumed.

The NRU's regularly scheduled maintenance outage was to have started on December 7, 2008 and last five days. However, the reactor was shut down in the late evening of December 4, 2008 to carry out a required configuration change to conduct research, unrelated to medical isotope production. The outage was extended to address unanticipated technical challenges and AECL decided to couple this with the regularly scheduled five-day shutdown for maintenance.

Prior to required maintenance outages, AECL produces additional isotopes within the reactor, allowing it to maintain delivery of isotopes to its customer, MDS Nordion throughout the outage period. Any possible impact from the shutdown is expected to be short-lived as the NRU has come back on schedule.

Now that the NRU reactor has restarted, AECL will continue to help alleviate the global demand for medical isotopes resulting from technical problems with a European reactor.

Over the last four months, the NRU reactor has been producing about 40 per cent above its normal production levels in order to meet global demand.

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