

CEA/DEN/DANS/DRSN
DO 34 03/02/09



09M1MLA000034

diffusé le : 03/02/09



VROM
Nuclear Safety Direction
P.O. Box 30945
2500 GX LA HAYE
Internal Postal Code 645
PAYS-BAS
Attention Mrs Ginevra DELFINI

Saclay le , 3 février 2009

Objet : Request of information
Réf : RB/2009010009

Dear Mrs DELFINI,

We understand the difficult case regarding HFR restart conditions.

As stated during the OECD workshop, OSIRIS is working closely with BR2 and HFR reactors under AIPES coordination to fit as best as possible their schedule of operation, in order to mitigate the European isotope shortage, but taking also into consideration research programs binding milestones for nuclear industry.

CEA is committed to supply target irradiation to IRE (Belgium) in OSIRIS reactor. In normal years, CEA supplies some 25-30% of global IRE demand. This represents some 10-15% of European production. Isotope production is some 10 % only of the use of OSIRIS, mostly dedicated to nuclear material and fuel testing.

A challenging program was established between IRE, COVIDIEN and CEA in September 2008 to irradiate and ship IRE targets towards COVIDIEN Petten, while IRE was offline.

Whereas HFR shutdown since August 2008 is impacting European Moly production, OSIRIS and associated facilities design make it very difficult to significantly increase Moly production levels, except for some limited periods. These are technical limits.

For 2009, OSIRIS modified its initial schedule and made provisions to operate more during the 1st half of 2009 (5 cycles from January to June). It should be noted regulatory constraints make it impossible to reduce refuelling periods (~ 10 days).

OSIRIS has to carry out several refurbishment works with many sub-contractors during 2 long shutdown periods: June - October 2009 and March - September 2010. These works and periods correspond to CEA commitments towards French Nuclear Safety Agency in view of safe and reliable OSIRIS operability until the end of current licence (2015).



So unfortunately no much flexibility is possible for the period 2009-2010.

Reducing OSIRIS 2009 long shutdown period would indeed improve security of isotope supply, but in 2009 only, since postponing part of the work planned in 2009 until 2010 long shutdown period may cause some unforeseen delay for restarting in September 2010. Do note such a postponement would necessarily be subject to approval by French Nuclear Safety Agency.

I must outline the tendering process for works in 2009 has just finished and subsequent order is to be passed very soon. Stopping this process would indeed require very urgently a formal and motivated request to CEA.

I trust the information supplied is relevant for this case.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alain', written over a horizontal line.

Alain Alberman
Commercial and project Manager

Copie :
AIPES Bruxelles – M. Gheeraert

CEA :
DEN – Y. Kaluzny ; A. Chabre
DANS – B. Mercier
DRSN/DIR – D. de Prunelé
DRSN/SEROS – Ph. Durande-Ayme