Mo-99 2015 TOPICAL MEETING ON MOLYBDENUM-99 TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

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Niowave's Domestic Production of Mo-99 from Uranium to Start in 2015

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ABSTRACT

The lack of a domestic supply of Mo-99 and the current practice of using weapons grade uranium to produce Mo-99 led Congress to pass the American Medical Isotope Production Act in 2013. This legislation establishes a program to develop domestic production of Mo-99 by non-federal entities, and to phase out the use of highly enriched uranium for Mo-99 production. In March 2015 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved Niowave's license to produce Mo-99 from low enriched uranium using a superconducting electron linac. The first domestic production and distribution of Mo-99 will follow in 2016-17. Chemical processing of the uranium targets will produce Mo-99 of the same quality as the existing supply chain, allowing a smooth transition to a domestic source.