

Status of the IRE LEU Conversion Program

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ABSTRACT

As a worldwide major radioisotope producer concerned by the proliferation risks reduction IRE is pursuing actively the conversion of its production process to the use of LEU targets. Several important achievements in different aspects of the project are discussed.

IRE having the largest supplier base in the world and willing to preserve this major contribution to the worldwide security of supply is engaged in the LEU validation of 5 European research reactors. The impact of target modifications and the implementation of new safety features are presented.

Process modifications as well as production environment refurbishment are progressing also accordingly to the plan. However there are several technical challenges such as the new radioxenon trapping system installation to overcome. The priority given to the project, the involvement of important financial and human resources are periodically assessed to manage and minimize the risk of delay.