

**2017 Mo-99 TOPICAL MEETING ON  
MOLYBDENUM-99 PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

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**Is the Global Shortage of Mo-99 Over?**

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**IS THE GLOBAL SHORTAGE OF MO-99 OVER?**

Concerns regarding an adequate supply of the widely used medical isotope, technetium-99m, the radioactive daughter of reactor produced Mo-99, were raised when the decision to withdraw the availability of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from commerce was made for security reasons. Would the substitution of low enriched uranium (LEU) result in a lower yield, and thereby precipitate a drug shortage? As studies addressing whether or not LEU produced Mo-99 was feasible, the aging Canadian Chalk River Reactor, which at one time produced the majority of the global supply of Mo-99, had an unexpected outage. This precipitated a crisis! The theoretical fears surrounding a fragile supply chain became real. In response to this global drug shortage, global governments, industry, and professional organizations addressed the problem in a variety of ways. The author will review the recent history, and make the case that the global shortage is essentially over.