

Before SHINE . . .

The September issue of *Nuclear News* contained an article in the Isotopes & Radiation section (page 40) about SHINE Medical Technologies. The article announced the groundbreaking celebration and the company's general plans for future operations at the Janesville, Wis., site. The initial activity will be the production of molybdenum-99, which is widely used in diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures. This endeavor is described in the article as "the first fully integrated, full-size Mo-99 production system."

I believe that it is worth pointing out that the first fully integrated, full-size Mo-99 production system was established in the 1960s at the research reactor and radioisotope processing facility located in Sterling Forest, in the town of Tuxedo, N.Y. This facility was originally owned by Union Carbide Corporation, Medi-

cal Products Division, later to become Cintichem Inc., a subsidiary of Medipysics/Hoffmann La-Roche. The initial production of Mo-99 was by n- γ reaction with Mo-98. A vast improvement in the quality of this product was developed at this facility in 1969 by separating Mo-99 from the fission products of uranium-235. This was a fully integrated process (target production-target irradiation in a 5-MW research reactor, Mo-99 separation in a radiochemical processing facility, and eventually Mo-99/Tc-99m generator production) that provided about half of the world demand for this product for more than 20 years.

I am sending you this comment because, as the erstwhile plant manager of that facility, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the expertise and ingenuity of the team that developed the technology, and the diligence and perseverance of those who operated the plant practically

24/7 to provide this vital radioisotope reliably to the nuclear medicine community throughout all those years.

James McGovern
Ocean, N.J.

Reply

Our apologies to Mr. McGovern and those who operated the Tuxedo, N.Y., Mo-99 production facility. He is, of course, correct. The wording in the article should have read, "the first fully integrated, full-size SHINE production system" (not "Mo-99 production system").—Ed.

Entrenched in tradition

I was gratified to see that the first item on the agenda for Andy Klein's Nuclear Grand Challenges is to work toward revising the basis for radiation dose limits. I was also glad to see the article on



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