

UPDATE on ANSTO Mo-99 Manufacturing Facility repairs – 26 September 2019

ANSTO has made progress towards the repair of mechanical fault within the gate valve opening and closing mechanism which is at the top of dissolution cell 1.

Stage	Action	Design	Approval	Completion
1	Removal of remaining active inventory from hot cell	✓	✓ stage 1	
2	Install Replacement of Valve			
3	Design, construct and install alternate valve			
4	Commission 2nd hot cell			

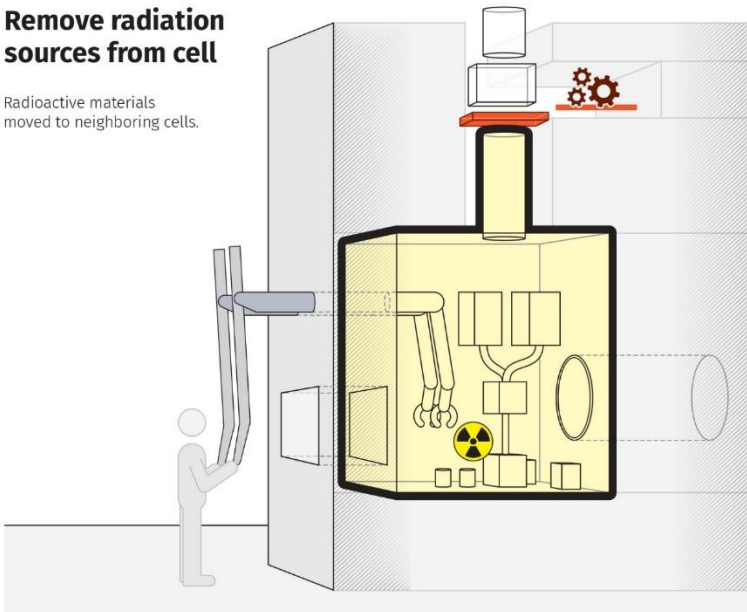
Removing active inventory from the hot cell is the first step to gaining access to the failed valve. More than half of the irradiated materials from inside the cell was removed on 18 September. Design work has been completed to deliver a safe and effective way to remove remaining active inventory from the hotcell. ARPANSA has provided approval today (26 September) for stage 1 of 2 stages to remove the remaining active inventory.

The replacement valve has been assembled and is currently undergoing testing. Engineering modelling is underway to determine likely modes of failure. Identifying these will greatly assist in the recovery efforts

Similarly, preliminary design of an alternate valve arrangement has commenced. This is a contingency plan should the original valve have a more systemic design fault or the risk of radiation exposure is prohibitive once the inventory has been removed.

1 Remove radiation sources from cell

Radioactive materials moved to neighboring cells.



If you have any questions, please contact ANSTO directly on 1800 251 572.