

## **MAPLE Project Key Dates**

### **1991**

- MDS purchased Nordion from the Government of Canada in a government privatization. Secure long-term medical isotope supply was a key component of the transaction.

### **1996**

- MDS Nordion contracted Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL, a federal Crown Corporation) to construct and deliver two nuclear reactors and a processing facility (the MAPLE project), intended to replace the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor and provide for a secure, long-term supply of medical isotopes.
- Slated to be fully operational in 2000, AECL committed to building the MAPLE project for \$145 million - to be paid by MDS Nordion.

### **2005**

- By 2005, the project was five years behind schedule and costs had more than doubled. MDS investment had exceeded \$350 million. To address these issues, MDS entered mediation with AECL.

### **2006**

- Following mediation, a new agreement was reached in February that reconfirmed AECL's commitment to the MAPLE project. The 2006 agreement stipulated that AECL would bring the MAPLE reactors into service commencing October 2008 and provide MDS with a 40-year supply of isotopes.
- On February 22, AECL issued a news release referencing the 40-year supply agreement and stating that they would complete the MAPLE project, with the first reactor and processing facility in service in October 2008.

### **2007**

- On November 21, MDS Nordion was informed that the NRU reactor would not restart after its regular maintenance schedule. This unexpected shut-down of the NRU reactor resulted in a worldwide shortage of medical isotopes, underlining the importance of long-term isotope supply.
- On December 12, emergency government legislation was passed (Bill C-38) to permit the restarting of the NRU reactor; the NRU was returned to service on December 16.
- The global medical isotope supply shortage resulting from the shut-down was approximately 35 per cent; in Canada, it was approximately 65 per cent.

### **2008**

- On May 12, MDS received a regular update report from AECL indicating that the project was proceeding as planned to bring the MAPLE reactors into service.
- On May 16, AECL announced its intention to discontinue the MAPLE project; the Government of Canada supported this decision without sharing a new plan for long-term isotope supply after NRU.