

Information regarding the detection of Ruthenium 106 in the air in Romania between September 29 and October 3, 2017

Environmental radioactivity monitoring is permanently conducted in Romania through the National Environmental Radioactivity Surveillance Network (RNSRM) and the results are communicated to CNCAN on a daily basis. CNCAN has been informed of the measurements performed in Romania between September 29 and October 3, 2017 that revealed the presence of the artificial radionuclide Ruthenium 106 in trace amounts in the air. CNCAN requested additional measurements to detect Ruthenium 106 and also submitted requests in this respect to the national organisations having detection and measurement capabilities, such as the Environmental Laboratory of the Institute for Nuclear Research Pitesti, the Environmental Laboratory of the Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research & Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering and the Environmental Laboratory of Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant.

The results obtained showed that the concentration levels of Ruthenium 106 in the air are of no consequence to human health. Furthermore, the detection of Ruthenium 106 alone in the atmosphere, as well as the absence of Ruthenium 106 in the atmospheric deposit samples that were measured totally, exclude the possibility of a release from a nuclear reactor. In addition, within the aforementioned period, there were no Ruthenium 106 production, transport or utilization activities conducted in Romania.

To be noted that since October 3, 2017, Ruthenium 106 has no longer been detected in Romania.

The results of the measurements performed by RNSRM, as well as the Information Report on this topic, drafted by CNCAN and the National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPM), were submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and can be viewed at <http://www.cncan.ro/assets/comunicate-presa/2017/RomanianInformationReport.pdf>. Moreover, upon the request of the French nuclear regulatory authority, the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), regarding the presence of Ruthenium 106 in the air in Romania, CNCAN communicated these results to ASN, as well as to the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) in France. The results provided were used by IRSN in the report on detection of Ruthenium 106 in France and in Europe issued by the Institute. The results of IRSN's investigations can be accessed using the following link http://www.irsn.fr/EN/newsroom/News/Documents/IRSN_Information-Report_Ruthenium-106-in-europe_20171109.pdf.

The public statements of the experts in radiation protection and nuclear medicine, as well as those of the scholars in the field, were in agreement with the position expressed by CNCAN specialists as regards the fact that the presence of the artificial radionuclide Ruthenium 106 posed no threat to human health and the environment.

D. Eng. Rodin TRAICU,

CNCAN President

Department of Public Relations

Phone no: +40 21 316 05 72

E-mail: relatii.publice@cncan.ro

www.cncan.ro