

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY CORPORATION (NECSA)

MEDIA RELEASE

(16 March 2009)

This morning abnormal levels of gamma radiation associated with xenon and krypton gases was detected in and near the building in which radioisotopes are produced for medical applications at Necsa's Pelindaba site. Fortunately these gases are not absorbed to any extent by living systems. Nevertheless, in terms of our emergency plan an alarm was sounded and all people on site mustered at designated assembly points.

The level of radiation detected in and near the affected buildings peaked above operational limits but the total amount released is within the daily release limits. By 10:38 levels of radiation had returned to normal, the emergency was called off, and employees were instructed to resume their normal duties. This event is classified only as a site emergency, with no off-site precautionary measures required, because of the localized nature of the event.

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) has been notified, as is required in terms of Necsa's site license.

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