

**Remarks of Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
at the
NorthStar Mo-99 Production Event in Beloit, Wisconsin**

17 April 2018

I am privileged to represent Secretary Rick Perry, the Department of Energy, and the National Nuclear Security Administration at this public recognition of a critical turning point for both our national security and the U.S. medical community.

Right up front, I want to congratulate NorthStar CEO George Messina and his stellar team on what we are celebrating today -- the FDA's approval for its first-of-a-kind Moly-99 production process.

NorthStar's innovative process will not use highly enriched uranium for medical isotope production.

What it will do is save lives, create jobs, and strengthen our national security.

I am very proud of the role NNSA has played in its unique public-private partnership with NorthStar.

As many of you may know, NNSA provided NorthStar with \$25 million to accelerate its efforts to bring this project to market. But the money is only one part of the story.

NNSA also made available the scientific, engineering and technical power of our National Laboratories to advance the development of NorthStar's technology.

As a result, NorthStar is on the cusp of becoming the first company in the U.S. to produce Moly-99 for patient use since the 1980s.

Moly-99 – along with its decay product, Tech-99m – is a critical medical isotope upon which thousands of Americans rely daily for the detection of disease.

By every measure, this issue is a deeply personal one for most Americans. It is no exaggeration to say that heart disease and cancer have left few people in this country

untouched--either directly or indirectly--through the often-devastating impact on friends and loved ones.

Moly-99 empowers us to fight back.

It enables us to diagnose heart disease, study organ function, and detect the spread of cancer.

Once fully operational, NorthStar's technology will have the capacity to supply approximately two-thirds of the U.S. demand for Moly-99.

America has always needed Moly-99, but the circumstances behind its production posed a risk to our national security.

Until now, the U.S. relied entirely on foreign producers, often heavily subsidized by their governments, who used highly enriched uranium in their production processes for our Moly-99 supply.

This raised deep concerns about the potential for proliferation.

From the beginning, NorthStar has been fully committed to the mission of producing Moly-99 without HEU.

In addition to achieving exceptional nuclear nonproliferation and diagnostic medicine goals, NorthStar's project will bring jobs to the heartland.

NorthStar already employs 150 people, many in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs here in Beloit, and plans to increase the workforce as they move into the future.

Once again, we salute NorthStar for achieving this milestone and for clearing a major regulatory hurdle which enables America and our citizens to access the benefits of this achievement.

And so, to everyone at NorthStar, thank you for your partnership, thank you for your leadership, thank you for your perseverance, and most of all, thank you for your dedication to our great Nation.

We look forward to even greater things from you in the future, and to celebrating your future successes.