

## <sup>96</sup>Nb

<sup>96</sup>Nb was identified correctly by Kundu and Pool in their 1949 paper “Columbium 96” (1949Ku18). Enriched <sup>90</sup>Zr, <sup>91</sup>Zr, <sup>92</sup>Zr, and <sup>96</sup>Zr targets were bombarded with 5 MeV protons and 10 MeV deuterons at Ohio State University. Beta and  $\gamma$ -ray decay curves were measured following the irradiation. “The order of magnitudes, therefore, clearly indicate that the 23.3-hour activity is produced from Zr<sup>96</sup> by (p,n) reaction, since both the isobaric chains 95 and 97 have already been well-established by the study of fission fragments.” The final quoted value of 23.35(5) h was later independently confirmed (1968An03). Earlier values of 4 d and 2.8 d were private communications quoted in the 1948 Table of Isotopes (1948Se40). These values as well as a 3 d half-life reported in the Plutonium Project (1950Ja01) were incorrect.

Adapted from reference (2012Ny02)

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