

*** Name Origin:**

After the scientist Albert Einstein.

*** Sources:**

Made by bombarding uranium with neutrons.

*** Uses:**

None

*** Additional Notes:**

Einsteinium, the seventh transuranic element of the actinide series to be discovered, was identified by Ghiorso and co-workers at Berkeley in December 1952 in debris from the first large thermonuclear explosion, which took place in the Pacific in November 1952. The isotope produced was the 20-day ^{253}Es isotope. In 1961, a sufficient amount of einsteinium was produced to permit separation of a macroscopic amount of ^{253}Es . This sample weighed about 0.01 mg. A special magnetic-type balance was used in making this determination. ^{253}Es so produced was used to produce mendelevium (Element 101). About 3 mg of einsteinium has been produced at Oak Ridge National Laboratories by irradiating for several years kilogram quantities of ^{239}Pu in a reactor to produce ^{242}Pu . This was then fabricated into pellets of plutonium oxide and aluminum powder, and loaded into target rods for an initial 1-year irradiation at the Savannah River Plant, followed by irradiation in a HFIR (High Flux Isotopic Reactor). After 4 months in the HFIR the targets were removed for chemical separation of the einsteinium from californium. Seventeen isotopes and isomers of einsteinium are now recognized. ^{254}Es has the longest half-life (276 days). Tracer studies using ^{253}Es show that einsteinium has chemical properties typical of a heavy trivalent, actinide element.