

January 3, 2002

Nancy Ridley, Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Health Quality Management  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Service  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108-4619

Dear Ms. Ridley:

I am responding to your letter dated October 10, 2001, regarding the NRC program to provide potassium iodide (KI) to States that choose to include KI as a supplemental protective measure in their emergency plans for the general population within the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ). Specifically, you requested information on the status of the program, policies and procedures in place for a State that would choose to make such a request, and the standards, criteria and restrictions placed on this program.

In January 2001, the NRC amended its emergency planning regulations to require that States consider including the prophylactic use of KI as a protective measure for the general public in the plume exposure pathway EPZ. The use of KI would serve as a supplement to sheltering and evacuation.

The NRC also decided to provide funding for an initial supply of KI for States that choose to incorporate KI for the general public in their emergency plans, subject to available resources. The term "States" includes local governments that have been designated by the State to request such funding.

The NRC, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is developing the means to provide KI to States. Within approximately 30 days, the NRC should be able to supply KI to States upon request. If the State of Massachusetts concludes that incorporating KI for use by the general public is appropriate, a request should be submitted to the NRC to provide KI by writing to Kathy Halvey Gibson, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555. The request must provide the following information: the nuclear power plant (NPP) site(s), the population in the NPP's 10-mile EPZ for which you are responsible, the contact person authorized to receive the KI, and the "Ship to" address for KI delivery. Upon receipt of this information, the NRC will validate the data and make arrangements to have KI shipped to your designated contact/address. The NRC will supply two KI tablets for each person in the 10-mile EPZ(s).

The NRC requests that one request for KI be submitted for each State government. If decisions about emergency planning and the use of KI are the responsibility of local, rather than State authorities, we request that the State consolidate the local requests and forward the consolidated request covering all NPPs within the State to the NRC.

We have provided the following information in a letter to Mr. Stephen McGrail, your State liaison officer for consideration and use: FDA guidance on use of KI; FEMA guidelines for KI program implementation; NRC Statements of Consideration published in support of the final KI rule; and NRC Disclaimer. States are encouraged to begin their processes for considering the use of KI as early as possible, recognizing that the NRC's resources for this purpose will be limited. NRC will provide KI to requesting States on a first come, first serve basis.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concern, and I hope that I have adequately addressed it. If you have questions or require assistance in this matter, please contact either Kathy Halvey Gibson, NRC, 301-415-1086 or Vanessa Quinn, FEMA, 202-646-3664.

Sincerely,

**/RA/William Borchardt for:**

Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

**/RA/William Borchardt for:**

Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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\*See previous concurrence

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