

March 1, 2002

Mr. Roger L. Suppes, Chief
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Post Office Box 118
Columbus, OH 43216-0118

Dear Mr. Suppes:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Meserve dated January 15, 2002, regarding the status of draft NUREG-1633, "Assessment of the Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) as a Supplemental Public Protective Action During Severe Reactor Accidents" and your request that NRC issue this guidance as soon as possible.

As you noted, NRC planned to issue NUREG-1633 to assist State emergency management officials in making informed decisions about the use of potassium iodide for the general public. However, the events of September 11, 2001, prompted NRC to place a priority on expediting the distribution of KI tablets to States that choose to incorporate KI for the general public into their emergency planning. This required a redirection of resources from the development of NUREG-1633 to the implementation of the NRC's KI supply process. As you know, as part of this process, the staff provided to each State a package of information in lieu of NUREG-1633 to facilitate their KI consideration process. The information provided included a copy of the final FDA guidelines, the NRC final rule and Statements of Consideration, FEMA guidelines, and the Federal KI Policy. To date nearly one-third of the States eligible to receive KI have completed their consideration process and requested KI from NRC.

I appreciate your perspectives and they will be taken into consideration when we reinitiate work on NUREG-1633. In the meantime, my staff is prepared to assist you in answering questions or providing references to published material on KI. Please contact Kathy Halvey Gibson, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, at (301) 415-1086 for assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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