

August 11, 2011

Mr. Peter Crane
6545 27th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98117

Dear Mr. Crane:

I am responding to your July 18, 2011, letter to the Chairman and Commissioners, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), regarding the Near Term Task Force's (NTTFs) review of the Fukushima incident. Specifically, you raised concerns about the lack of discussion in the NTTF report on potassium iodide (KI) stockpiling, distribution, and administration policy as it pertains to domestic radiological preparedness and response. I appreciate your interest in this issue.

I have forwarded your letter to the NTTF members. In addition, I can assure you that as part of the NRC's "longer-term" lessons learned review, a careful assessment of the source term, releases, deposition and dose calculations, as well as public protective action decisions (including KI use) during the Fukushima event will be conducted to determine their implications on domestic KI policy. The NRC is open to changes in policy when there is a sufficient technical rationale or public interest benefit for doing so.

Notwithstanding the above, I respectfully disagree with your characterizations of the NRCs historical policy regarding KI. Particularly troublesome is your assertion that the NRC is opposed to the stockpiling of KI and has worked hard against the distribution of KI. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Since the implementation of the NRC KI program in late 2001, the NRC has worked closely with the states to meet their KI needs. To date, the NRC has distributed over 32 million KI tablets to 23 participating states, and is currently working with interagency partners, including the US Department of Health and Human Services, to establish a basis for reintroducing KI into the strategic national stockpile. Finally, as recently as 2009, the Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to continue the distribution of KI in its Staff Requirements Memorandum on SECY-09-0041, "RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE REPLENISHMENT OF POTASSIUM IODIDE" (enclosed).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott A. Morris, Acting Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

cc:

Senator George Voinovich
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Johnny Isakson
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thomas Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Ed Markey
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Henry Waxman
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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