

April 18, 2014

Mr. Moustafa Abou-Taleb, Branch Manager
California Office of Emergency Services
Preparedness Division
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, CA 95655

SUBJECT: FUTURE NEED FOR POTASSIUM IODIDE TABLETS

Dear Mr. Abou-Taleb:

I am writing on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to inquire about the State of California's (CA) intentions regarding its future need for potassium iodide (KI) tablets. The decision by Southern California Edison to cease power production at its San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) located in San Clemente, CA, appears to warrant a review of CA's KI policies. The NRC requests information from you about future KI needs to fully inform its 2015 budget request, which is currently being formulated.

The NRC recognizes that the overall authority for making radiological protective action decisions for citizens (including the use of KI, sheltering, and evacuation) rests with either the State or local authorities. To support their decision process, the NRC funds an initial supply of KI to States that have requested it for use by their populations within the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) of commercial nuclear power plants. The NRC has also agreed to replenish KI stockpiles in accordance with the tablets' expiration dates. To date, CA has received approximately 1.6 million KI tablets and is scheduled to receive 1.56 million tablets in the upcoming replenishment cycle during fiscal year 2015.

As you know, KI is a protective measure that protects the thyroid gland against the internal uptake of radioactive iodine-131 that may occur during the unlikely event of an accidental release at a nuclear reactor. Iodine-131, which has an 8-day half-life, is the principle radioisotope of concern with respect to the prophylactic use of KI. When a nuclear reactor is shut down, there is no production of radioactive iodine, and therefore the prophylactic use of KI would not be warranted. Additional information can be found on the NRC website:
<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/faqs.html>.

The NRC staff looks forward to working with you regarding CA's future KI needs. We would appreciate notification regarding your decision for KI replenishment for the population within SONGS's 10-mile EPZ by May 16, 2014.

M. Abou-Taleb

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact me at (301) 287-3779.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Scott Morris for

Robert J. Lewis, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact me at (301) 287-3779.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Scott Morris for

Robert J. Lewis, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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M. Abou-Taleb

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