



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

OCT 13 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Deputy Executive Director
for Nuclear Materials Safety, Safeguards, and
Operations Support

FROM: Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: STATUS IN PROCESSING DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL
OPINION (DPO) ON STOCKPILING POTASSIUM IODIDE

In response to your memo of October 11, 1989 to me on the above subject, I have reviewed the status of this DPO review. There have been delays primarily due to the need to obtain and evaluate additional information on the dose level needed to ablate the thyroid gland, the cost of thyroid nodule treatment, and the incidence of thyroid cancer after exposure to Iodine-131. Our desire to evaluate this information thoroughly in order to permit a resolution of the DPO at the lowest possible level has contributed to this delay.

We understand that Harold Denton has provided Mr. Crane with some information on the iodine release resulting from the Chernobyl accident. We would like to review this information for its relevance on this topic.

We plan to meet one more time with Mr. Crane to review this latest information and project completion of this DPO by the end of November, 1989.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Beckjord", is written over the typed name.

Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: J. Taylor

9702280125 970226
PLR ORG NIRCIN
410660 PDR