

June 30, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-124 - PROPOSED
FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING USE OF POTASSIUM
IODIDE AFTER A SEVERE ACCIDENT AT A NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT

The Commission has approved Option 2 - endorsing the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) recommendations. As such, the Commission has endorsed the Federal offer to fund the purchase of potassium iodide (KI) for States at their request and endorsed the FRPCC recognition of the availability to State and local governments of the Federal stockpiling of KI for purposes of mitigating the consequences of terrorist use of nuclear, biological, or chemical (NBC) weapons. Under this option, the Federal government would provide funding for the purchase of KI and State and local governments would be responsible for maintenance, distribution, and subsequent costs. NRC licensees should, as part of the emergency response planning, discuss this matter with State and local governments who make decisions on protective measures as part of their planning for responses to emergencies. The staff should inform the Commission as to how it will inform NRC licensees of the need to discuss KI with State and local governments.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 8/29/97)

KI stockpiles should be available to NRC employees who are expected to perform first responder responsibilities.

The Commission's approval of Option 2 should not be viewed as a denial of, or Commission action on, the petition for rulemaking (PRM) of Peter Crane. The staff should prepare an assessment of Mr. Crane's petition and of the comments on that petition and

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-97-124, AND THE COMMISSION VOTING RECORD CONTAINING THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

submit the assessment to the Commission for its consideration in
accordance with 10 CFR 2.802 and 2.803.
(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 8/29/97)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
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CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
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PDR
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