

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/03/02

EDO CONTROL: G20020245  
DOC DT: 04/23/02  
FINAL REPLY:

Representative George W. Gekas

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 02-0295

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Distribution of Potassium Iodide

Travers  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Norry  
Craig  
Burns/Cyr  
Miller, RI  
Collins, NRR

DATE: 04/24/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 24, 2002 07:37

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-02-0295 **LOGGING DATE:** 04/23/2002  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** REP George Gekas  
**AFFILIATION:** REP  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Richard Meserve  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns NRC's offer to provide potassium iodide for people residing within a 10-mile radius of Pennsylvania's five nuclear facilities

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF

**LETTER DATE:** 04/23/2002  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:**

**NOTES:** OCA to Ack  
Commission Correspondence

**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 05/07/2002 **DATE SIGNED:**

GEORGE W. GEKAS  
17TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



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April 23, 2002

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Chairman Richard A. Meserve  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North Building  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Meserve,

I am grateful to have learned that on Thursday, April 18, 2002, Governor Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania decided to accept the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's offer to provide potassium iodide for people residing within the 10-mile radius around the State's five nuclear facilities, including the Three Mile Island facility in my district.

I strongly support Governor Schweiker's decision to accept the offer of potassium iodide. For a long time, I have recognized the importance of maintaining a potassium iodide stockpile in the event of an emergency. Potassium iodide has been proven to prevent the thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine, a material likely to be released in a catastrophic nuclear accident. While there is the possibility of many other radioactive materials being released in a serious accident, we can at least be sure that potassium iodide will protect individuals from this one form of radiation and from the inevitable after-effects of exposure to radioactive iodine.

However, I do want to voice some concern about potassium iodide and the NRC's offer to the various states. While I believe it is a good decision to allow individuals living around nuclear facilities to have the option of keeping potassium iodide in their homes in the event of an accident, the NRC is only providing pills in an adult dosage and that dosage of potassium iodide may be excessive for children. Children, whose thyroid glands are still developing, are at the greatest risk of developing thyroid cancer in the event of exposure to radioactive iodine, and we need to be sure that the dosage of a vital preventative measure like potassium iodide is suitable for them.

The solution to this problem seems simple. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should take the necessary steps to provide states with the dosages that would be suitable for children. I would ask that you provide me with any NRC proposals to make this happen. I would further urge you to meet with Governor Schweiker's administration to

Page 2  
April 23, 2002

address these concerns and offer proposals to them. I offer my good offices to facilitate any such meeting in the future.

I look forward to working with you to come up with a solution that will satisfy the parties involved. If you should have any questions or would like to meet with me to discuss this, please contact me or my staff.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Gekas", written over a horizontal line.

GEORGE W. GEKAS  
Member of Congress

cc: Deputy Commissioner Lester M. Crawford  
United States Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20857-0001