

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

To: Collins, NRK

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DEDR
DEDM
AO

AUTHOR: Mr. Alan Morris

AFFILIATION: FL

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: Ref corres to Joe Colvin, NEI, concerning potassium iodide and personnel at Anbex. Inc.

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs

LETTER DATE: 08/26/2002

ACKNOWLEDGED No

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ANBEX Inc.

727-784-3483
2885 Bridlewood Dr., Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Alan Morris

President
ajmorris99@cs.com

August 26, 2002

Chairman Richard Meserve
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I recently learned that a letter written by Mr. Joe Colvin of the Nuclear Energy Institute, which is highly critical of my company, Anbex, has been circulated throughout the NRC. When I responded to Mr. Colvin's letter on August 10, I was not aware that others had seen his original letter.

While I do not wish to push this matter beyond where it ought to go, I value my relationship with NRC, and hope you will consider my response to Mr. Colvin, which is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Alan Morris

ANBEX Inc.
727-784-3483
PMB 284, 35246 US 19 N., Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Alan Morris
www.anbex.com
ajmorris99@cs.com

August 10, 2002

Mr. Joe F. Colvin
President,
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Colvin:

I am in receipt of your July 22 letter regarding potassium iodide in which you claim there are factual errors in recent statements by Anbex personnel, as well as errors in the Anbex web site. Please note the following...

1. As reported, in a July 13 CBS Evening News broadcast, Bruce Rodin of Anbex stated, "...their own documentation indicates that hundreds of miles is really the scenario where radioactive iodine can be carried." You call this statement "false and alarmist."

Your denial of this statement is surprising, since its source is a Nuclear Regulatory Commission Document (NUREG/CR-1433) which analyzes the effects of a core melt accident with an atmospheric release, and states (page 15) "cancer deaths and thyroid nodules could occur over much larger distances (100's of miles) and would therefore be less affected by immediate protective measures taken near the site." The document also provides quantitative estimates (table 3) of the mean thyroid dose for exposed individuals at various distances from a reactor in a serious (Chernobyl-like) accident. It predicts, for example, a 16 rem dose at 200 miles, which appears close to estimates of what actually occurred. As I am sure you know, FDA recommends potassium iodide (KI) be administered in cases where the thyroid dose is likely to exceed 5 rem. Consequently, we believe Mr. Rodin's statement—and its implication that KI might be needed well beyond the 10-mile EPZ—is correct.

2. Your letter notes your objections to two statements on the web page of Anbex Distributing (www.anbexdistributing.com). Please note that Anbex Distributing is a wholly separate company from Anbex Inc. The total extent of our relationship with Anbex Distributing is that they have purchased one case of product from Anbex Inc. We have nothing to do with their operation; have absolutely no financial, personal, or any other interest in their company; have no special marketing or any unusual arrangements with them; and, prior to about a month ago, had never met or had any knowledge of the owners or personnel who run the company. We clearly had nothing to do with the content of their web site.

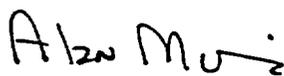
Please review our web site (www.anbex.com) to learn what we say about potassium iodide. As you will see, we make no claims that can not be supported by evidence, and we avoid inflammatory or inappropriate statements or suggestions.

We recognize that Anbex has a different perspective on the question of KI than either the nuclear industry or the NRC, but we do not believe our behavior, statements or approach warrant the criticisms outlined in your letter. We believe that US nuclear facilities are the best in the world, and we have stated on numerous occasions that they are safe, reliable, and well run operations that provide a valuable component of the country's energy needs. Having said this, however, we also note that they are vulnerable to factors beyond the operator's control (such as earthquakes), have the remote potential for unexpected mechanical or structural failures (such as almost occurred recently at Davis-Besse), and represent a potential target for terrorist actions that far exceed what their designers ever contemplated—a fact which has been acknowledged. For these reasons, and under today's reasonable homeland security concerns, we believe a modest investment to secure ample supplies of potassium iodide for all Americans is warranted, and is consistent with prudent public policy and the industry's goal to guarantee facility safety.

We also believe the industry does itself a disservice by its continued de facto opposition to KI. By refusing to assure access to this inexpensive proven protection, you leave yourselves open to charges by anti-nuclear groups that the industry doesn't care about safeguarding the health of America's children. By endorsing KI only within the 10-mile EPZ, you give your opponents the opportunity to point out that almost all of the thyroid cancer at Chernobyl took place from 30 to 200 miles downwind. And when you oppose KI because "it only protects the thyroid," activists are able to challenge your credibility by quoting the NRC's finding that "except for thyroid cancer, there has been no confirmed increase in the rates of other cancers, including leukemia...attributed to releases from [Chernobyl]."

Clearly, Anbex is uncomfortable with the current climate, and your letter certainly signals the sense of hostility towards us by some in the industry and elsewhere. We would obviously like to correct this, and I would be happy to discuss steps we might take that would serve the best interests of the industry, the NRC and Anbex. I believe we share common goals, and hope we can work together to achieve them.

Sincerely,



Alan Morris
President
Anbex

cc: Chairman Richard Meserve