

October 21, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Christopher I. Grimes, Program Director  
Policy and Rulemaking Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Joseph L. Birmingham, Project Manager */RA/*  
Policy and Rulemaking Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 10, 2002 MEETING WITH INDUSTRY ON  
ISSUES RELATED TO USE OF POTASSIUM IODIDE IN RADIATION  
EMERGENCIES

On October 10, 2002, a publicly observed meeting was held between representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), industry, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), State agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at NRC headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and to clarify expectations for prophylactic use of potassium iodide (KI) in radiation emergencies. The meeting attendees are listed in an attachment to this memorandum.

Patricia Milligan, of the NRC, briefly stated the purpose of the meeting and, after introductions of all participants, opened the floor to discussion.

Alan Nelson, of NEI, asked about the status of a revision to the EPA manual. An EPA representative responded that a revision of the manual may be ready in 2003 and that there may or may not be an interim revision available.

An FDA representative discussed that the FDA was looking at potential radiation dose recommendations for prophylactic use of KI. He explained that age was a factor considered in determining the potential radiation dose to be recommended. The potential radiation dose recommendation for an adult should be higher than it would be for a child. He said the FDA was looking at a potential 5 rem dose as meeting the needs of a child.

The group discussed the responsibility of a licensee in States which request that the licensee give them projected dose data and not provide them with a recommendation for prophylactic KI use. Some States believe that if such a recommendation is made that it will be misunderstood. The NRC pointed out that the licensees need to meet their obligation to identify to the State that they recommend KI be used in affected areas. This is an issue that the licensee must work out with the State.

A licensee asked how licensees will be evaluated in this area. The staff responded that licensees would be evaluated as part of the normal inspection process. The staff emphasized that the decision should be based on having KI distribution in time for optimum uptake. The staff discussed that for the general population there is very low risk from taking KI. There is a small percentage of the population which may have adverse effects from taking KI but the

benefit from KI distribution greatly outweighed this risk. The risk might be allergy to KI or certain thyroid conditions. Some people know they have adverse effects from KI and therefore the risk of side effects should be made known to the population within the emergency zone. States should plan for means to mitigate the results of the adverse effects.

After these discussions concluded, the staff asked for public comments. Peter Crane, stated that he was a former NRC staff member, and gave several comments. He felt that it was beneficial for licensees to meet with the NRC, FDA, EPA, States, and FEMA. However, he felt that more should be done to make the public aware of this type of meeting. He said that there was public and congressional interest in the subject but the meeting notice posted on the NRC website did not reach the general public. He made several suggestions for improvement such as announcing the meeting on the NRC website under the heading for potassium iodide issues. He also said the purpose of the meeting should be more fully stated. He talked about the increased risk to nuclear plants from terrorism noting that Al Qaeda had considered them as possible targets.

Joseph Birmingham, a project manager for NRC, stated that the NRC had recently taken many actions to improve public participation in meetings. He noted that this meeting was intended to provide licensees an opportunity to clarify the expectations of the Federal and State agencies involved and was not a policy discussion that would be considered to have widespread public interest. He agreed that terrorism was an increase risk to nuclear power plants, however, the NRC's response should be appropriate to the level of risk increase. Kathy Halvey Gibson, noted that the NRC had created the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response to assess the increase risk from terrorism and to coordinate the NRC response to terrorism including certain aspects of emergency preparedness. Mr. Birmingham thanked Mr. Crane for his comments and said the staff would consider them for future meetings.

Having completed the agenda, the group adjourned.

Project No. 689

cc: See list

Attachment: As stated

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Nuclear Energy Institute

Project No. 689

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**Meeting on KI Use for Radiation Emergencies**  
List of Attendees for October 10, 2002 Meeting

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Alan Nelson	NEI
Ellen Anderson	NEI
Tina Kuhr	Duke Energy
David Pond	Tennessee Valley Authority
Alain Grosjean	Entergy Nuclear
Steve Mazzola	Dominion Resources
Jim Jones	Nine Mile Point
Brad Leissa	FDA/CDER/Div. Counter Terrorism
Martin Vonk	Exelon Nuclear
Peter Crane	Self
Kenneth Wierman	FEMA NP-TS RP
Bill McNutt	FEMA NP-TS RP
Joan Aron	Self
David Burgin	PSEG
Jenny Weil	McGraw Hill
Maureen Zawalick	PG&E
Richard Garcia	SCE
Paul Holland	Exelon
Benn Tannenbaum	Cong Ed Markey Staff
Merrill Maddox	Southern Nuclear
Vernon K. Higaki	FirstEnergy Corp.
Edward A. Tupin	EPA
Roger Davis	NRC/Office of Commissioner Diaz
Ted Quay	NRC/NRR/IEHB
Kathy Halvey Gibson	NRC/NRR/IEHB
Patricia Milligan	NRC/NRR/IEHB
Tom Blount	NRC/NRR/IEHB
Joseph Birmingham	NRC/NRR/RPRP
Kathryn Brock	NRC/NRR/IEHB
Mike Jamgochian	NRC/NRR/RPRP
Marjorie Rothschild	NRC/OGC
*Robert Bores	Region I
*Nick De Piro	State of New Jersey
*Jon Christensen	State of New Jersey
*Martin Vyenielo	State of Pennsylvania
*Adela Salame-Alfie	State of New York
*Mike Sinclair	State of Illinois
*Joe Kolakowski	State of New Jersey
*Ed Limon	Nuclear Control Institute
*Jon Edwards	EPA

\*Participated via teleconference