

January 23, 2004

Kirksey E. Whatley, Director
Office of Radiation Control
State Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
Suite 700
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Mr. Whatley:

By letter dated December 20, 2001, the Governor-designated State Liaison Officers were informed that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) amended its emergency planning regulations to require that States consider including the prophylactic use of potassium iodide (KI) as a protective measure for the general public in the plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) (66 FR 5427, January 9, 2001). The use of KI would essentially serve as a supplement to sheltering and evacuation. NRC also made an offer at that time to fund an initial supply of KI for States that choose to incorporate KI for the general public in their emergency plans. To date, eighteen States have requested and received KI tablets.

At the time the current KI contract was put into effect, only 130 mg tablets were approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Since that time, the FDA has approved a 65 mg tablet for children.

This is to inform you that the Commission is making available at this time to all eligible States the opportunity to supplement their current stockpiles with 65 mg tablets. If you are interested in this offer, you may request the NRC to provide KI by writing to Eric Weiss, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555. Your letter must provide the following information: The nuclear power plant (NPP) site(s); the number of 65 mg tablets requested; the population in the NPP's 10-mile EPZ for which you are responsible; the contact person authorized to receive the KI; and the 'Ship to' address for KI delivery. Upon receipt of this information, the NRC will validate the data and make arrangements for NRC's contractor to ship KI directly to your designated contact/address. The NRC will supply two KI tablets for each person in the 10-mile EPZ(s). You may also fax your request to 301-415-2968.

We request that a single submittal for KI be provided by each State Government. If decisions about emergency planning and the use of KI are the responsibility of local, rather than State authorities, we request that the State consolidate the local requests and forward the consolidated request covering all NPPs within the State to the NRC.

Additional information about NRC's KI policy can be found at NRC's web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/emer-resp/emer-prep/potassium-iodide.html>. If you have any questions about the purchase of KI or require assistance in this matter, please contact Patricia Milligan, Division of Inspection Program Management, Emergency Preparedness and Plant Support Branch, by telephone at 301-415-2223 or by e-mail at pxm@nrc.gov .

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

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