

October 8, 2004

Mr. Gil Jamieson, Acting Director
NIMS Integration Center
Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

SUBJECT: NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Dear Mr. Jamieson:

By letter dated September 9, 2004, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security reiterated the requirement for Federal departments/agencies to adopt and use the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in incident management and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities, as well as in support of all actions taken to assist State or local entities. The Secretary specified implementation milestones for Federal departments/agencies and requested identification of both a list of Federal Preparedness Assistance programs and a point of contact for NIMS implementation.

The mission of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), established by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment. In carrying out this mission, the NRC has no existing or anticipated programs that provide preparedness assistance (i.e., grants or contracts that contribute to building preparedness and response capabilities) to States and local entities. However, the NRC provides potassium iodide (KI) tablets, as requested, to those states with populations within the 10 mile emergency planning zone of commercial nuclear power plants. Potassium iodide, if taken in time and at the appropriate dosage, blocks the thyroid gland's uptake of radioactive iodine that could be dispersed in a severe nuclear accident.

The NRC has begun the process of incorporating the NIMS framework into the Agency's incident management program and documentation. The management-level point of contact for this initiative is Richard H. Wessman, Director of the Incident Response Directorate, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response. Mr. Wessman may be reached at 301-415-7482 or RHW@nrc.gov. The technical staff point of contact is Thomas A. Kevern. Mr. Kevern may be reached at 301-415-0224 or TAK@nrc.gov.

Sincerely

/RA by Patricia G. Norry/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

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