

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/31/08 EDO CONTROL: G20080026
DOC DT: 12/14/07
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Herb Kohl

TO:

Schmidt, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 08-0019

Reyes, EDO

DESC:

Distribution of Potassium Iodide
(Fawn Shillinglaw) (EDATS: SECY-2007-0019)

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Mallett
Ash
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns
Zimmerman, NSIR
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 01/09/08

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

EDO

Ridge

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Prepare response to constituent and cc: Senator Kohl for the signature of the EDO.

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2008-0019

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 1/31/2008 5:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 2/1/2008 5:00 PM

Subject: Distribution of Potassium Iodide (Fawn Shillinglaw)

Description:

CC Routing: NSIR; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20080026, LTR-08-0009

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

Roadmap Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: EDO

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: YES

Special Instructions: Prepare response to constituent and cc: Senator Kohl for the signature of the EDO.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Herb Kohl

Date of Incoming: 12/14/2007

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 1/9/2008

Addressee: R. Schmidt, OCA

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

HERB KOHL
WISCONSIN

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

JUDICIARY

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

December 14, 2007

Ms. Rebecca Schmidt
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

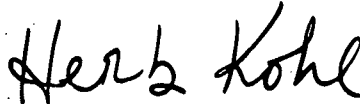
Dear Ms. Schmidt:

I am writing to request your assistance in helping one of my Wisconsin constituents. Her concerns are in regards to the distribution of anti-radiation pills. Enclosed please find a copy of the correspondence I received.

Any assistance you could provide in responding to these concerns would be greatly appreciated. Please respond directly to my constituent and send a copy to my Washington D.C. office to the attention of Amy Jorgensen.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
United States Senator

HK: aj

Enclosure

Received SECY/C&R

Date: 1-8-08

Time: 3:45

MILWAUKEE OFFICE:
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LACROSSE OFFICE:
425 STATE STREET
SUITE 202
LACROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 796-0045

*A terrorist group won't blow up wind turbines and more nuke plant
more redirector waste to put in a
and separator - in a bin
Fresh in to the plant.*

3148158
NJ

Na

White House may stop distribution of anti-radiation pills

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The White House may scrap a plan that would give anti-radiation pills to millions of people, five years after Congress ordered that the tablets be made available to anyone living within 20 miles of a nuclear reactor.

Congress issued the order based on concerns that terrorists could attack a nuclear plant. The government already provided free pills to the 4.7 million people living within 10 miles of a plant, but Congress ordered wider distribution to cover 21.9 million people in 33 states.

Although the White House at the time called potassium iodide pills crucial to preventing thyroid cancer in cases of radiation exposure, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission argues against wider distribution of the drug. According to the NRC, the pills may not be the most effective way to prevent cancer and could undermine confidence in U.S. nuclear plants.

The once-a-day pills protect the thyroid against inhaled or ingested radioactive iodine by saturating it with harmless potassium iodide.

The White House is considering whether to invoke a legal loophole allowing the government to scrap the distribution requirement if there is a better way to prevent thyroid cancer. In July, President Bush instructed his science adviser

Science adviser John Marburger says he'll decide within a month.

Marburger says he'll consider whether other measures, such as evacuation and distribution of uncontaminated food, would be more effective.

Any plan to protect people from developing thyroid cancer after radiation exposure "shouldn't be a symbolic effort," he says.

Patricia Milligan, the NRC's senior adviser for preparedness, says the commission opposes broad distribution of the pills because the best way to eliminate risk is to make sure people don't eat contaminated food.

Milligan also says the NRC is concerned about undermining the reputation of the nuclear industry.

It's always a concern that if you expand the distribution (of the pills), you don't have confidence in the plants," she says. "We have studies that show the safety of our plants."

In July, President Bush stripped the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) of responsibility for the program and turned it over to the NRC.

A thyroid cancer group and some lawmakers are furious.

Potassium iodide "is a simple, cheap, proven drug that can save countless lives, especially children, in the event of a nuclear release," says Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass. Without it, "millions of Americans



By H. Darr Belser, USA TODAY

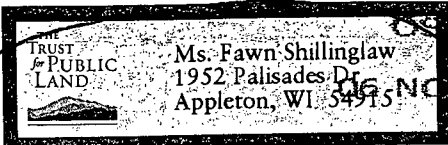
Potassium iodide tablets: Can be taken in a radiation emergency.

According to the American Thyroid Association, there is no more effective preventive measure than potassium iodide, which is approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Peter Crane, a former lawyer with the NRC and thyroid cancer activist, says the administration stalled for five years under pressure from the NRC, which has "sabotaged (the law) from the get-go."

In preparing to distribute the pills, "HHS and its health experts tried to do the right thing by America's children and were punished by having the issue taken away and given to the NRC," Crane says. "If you entrust our kids' health to nuclear engineers instead of doctors, you are inviting disaster."

Marburger, a physicist who recently took potassium iodide to protect his thyroid from treatments for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, says the issue is "more compli-



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