

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:

ROUTING:

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

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.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

**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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jan 09, 2008 10:52

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PAPER NUMBER: LTR-08-0009                      LOGGING DATE: 01/09/2008  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Herb Kohl  
AFFILIATION: CONG  
ADDRESSEE: Rebecca Schmidt  
SUBJECT: Concerns the distribution of anti-radiation pills

ACTION: Signature of EDO  
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 12/14/2007  
ACKNOWLEDGED No  
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:  
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 02/01/2008                      DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20080026

HERB KOHL  
WISCONSIN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5653  
T.T.Y. (202) 224-4464  
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

## 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

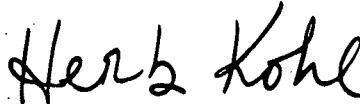
Dear Ms. Schmidt:

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:  
310 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
SUITE 950  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203  
(414) 297-4451  
T.T.Y. (414) 297-4485

MADISON OFFICE:  
14 WEST MIFFLIN STREET  
SUITE 207  
MADISON, WI 53703  
(608) 264-5338

EAU CLAIRE OFFICE:  
402 GRAHAM AVENUE  
SUITE 206  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
(715) 832-8424

APPLETON OFFICE:  
4321 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE  
SUITE 235  
APPLETON, WI 54914  
(920) 738-1640

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

# 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."

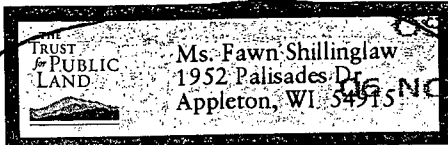
In preparing to distribute the pills, "HHS and its health experts tried to do the right thing by America's children and were punished by having the issue taken away and given to the NRC," Crane says. "If you entrust our kids' health to nuclear engineers instead of doctors, you are inviting disaster."

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-

A terrorist group won't blow up wind turbines and more nuke plant waste to put in a more radioactive waste to put in a and repository - in Wisconsin. Fresh in to the place.

Na

Protecting industry at risk of public health, especially children.



Ms. Fawn Shillinglaw  
1952 Palisades Dr  
Appleton, WI 54915

OSHKOSH WI 549

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Washington DC  
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