

September 10, 2013

Mr. Peter Crane
6545 27th Avenue, NW
Seattle, Washington 98117

Dear Mr. Crane:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 20, 2013, regarding the use of potassium iodide (KI) for thyroid protection in the event of a radiological emergency. Specifically, you were concerned with decisions regarding the stockpile of KI by the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), as well as concerns with the recently published draft "PAG [Protective Action Guideline] Manual" by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (78 FR 42071, April 15, 2013).

The overall authority for making protective action decisions (including the use of KI, sheltering, evacuation, etc.) for citizens rests with either the States or local authorities. The NRC provides KI to those States that request it for use by their populations within the 10-mile emergency planning zone of a commercial nuclear power plant. The NRC funds the initial supply of KI to those States that request it, as well as replenishment stockpiles in accordance with expiration dates of tablets. To date, 25 States have received KI from the NRC.

In your letter, you urged the NRC to take steps to restore KI to the SNS. The SNS is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). I encourage you to direct any concerns that you may have regarding the SNS to the HHS.

You also specifically urged the Commission to comment on the draft EPA PAG Manual and to request the EPA to include your letter's referenced documents in the final PAG Manual. The NRC staff reviewed the EPA's draft PAG Manual during its development process. The Federal Interagency Working Group, with members from the Federal Radiological Protection Coordinating Committee representing the NRC, HHS, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Labor, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration, also reviewed the draft. After all appropriate reviews were performed during the PAG Manual's development phase, the NRC confirmed that the draft manual reflects its comments, which were consistent with Commission policy. I encourage you to direct any other concerns that you may have regarding the draft PAG Manual to the EPA, the administrator of the document.

The NRC appreciates your ongoing interest in the NRC's KI Program. Please be assured that we take your concerns seriously.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane