



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 14, 1999

Mr. Roger LeClerc
314 Avenida Sierra
San Clemente, CA 92672

Dear Mr. LeClerc:

I am responding to your questions that you raised at the public meeting on February 25, 1999, at the San Clemente Community Center regarding potassium iodide (KI). This meeting was held to discuss the future decommissioning plans of Southern California Edison Company's San Onofre Unit 1.

The first question that you raised concerned the chemical composition of potassium iodide when used as a thyroid blocking agent. I have enclosed Chapter 4 of Report No. 55 by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) which discusses the dosage of KI when used as a blocking agent. Please note that the NCRP is not a government agency but is rather a scientific organization whose concerns are the scientific and technical aspects of radiation safety.

Your second question concerned the availability of KI. The current Federal policy is that the decisions on distribution and use of KI for thyroidal blocking to protect the public health and safety reside with the State and, in some cases, local health authorities. I discussed this issue with the California Department of Health Services and was informed that California does not require the stockpiling of KI for use by the public. If you have additional questions regarding California's policy on KI, please contact Mr. Ben Tong, State of California, Office of Emergency Services at 916-464-3236.

I have also enclosed a copy of NRC Information Notice No. 88-15: *Availability of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-Approved Potassium Iodide For Use in Emergencies Involving Radioactive Iodine*. This document references two pharmaceutical companies that have received FDA approval for non-prescription "radiation emergency potassium iodide" drugs. Anbex, Inc., can be reached at (727) 784-7889 or on the internet at www.anbex.com. Carter-Wallace, Inc., can be reached at (212) 339-5000 or on the internet at www.wampolelabs.com.

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Mr. Roger LeClerc

- 2 -

April 14, 1999

Lastly, you may obtain additional information on this subject through our internet site (www.nrc.gov). From the bottom of the home page, choose 'search'. On the next page, choose 'search the NRC collection of public files'. On the next page enter 'potassium iodide' then select 'search.' This will give you a list of documents related to potassium iodide.

I trust that this reply responds to your questions. If I can be of further help, please call me at 301-415-2497.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Ronald A. Burrows, Project Manager
Decommissioning Section
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

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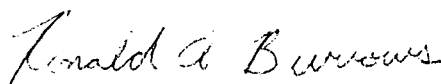
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