



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

~~NRC PUBLIC~~
~~DOCUMENT ROOM~~

TERA

DEC 3 1979

The Honorable Tom Corcoran
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Corcoran:

Mr. William Wilcox at the Federal Emergency Management Agency has asked the NRC to reply to your letter of October 23, 1979 concerning the use of potassium iodide or similar compounds in limiting radiological exposures from inhalation of radioiodine. The NRC has an effort underway to determine the extent to which radioiodine should be stockpiled for use in emergencies resulting from accidents at nuclear power plants. This effort is being coordinated with the Bureau of Radiological Health in the Food and Drug Administration, HHS. FDA has recently approved applications for manufacture of potassium iodine in tablet form and is continuing studies on the health effects of this compound.

I expect that further guidance on stockpiling the drug for emergency use by the public will be available early next year. When the NRC has developed recommendations on the quantities which should be stockpiled and the distance around nuclear power facilities where plans should be made for administering the drug, the NRC will likely request FEMA to take the lead in seeing that appropriate stockpiling and contingency distribution systems are put in place by States or the federal government.

Sincerely,

Original signed by R. G. Smith *for*

Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

cc: Mr. William H. Wilcox
Acting Director
Disaster Response and Recovery
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D. C. 20472

1755 343

8001160 389