



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

RELEASED TO THE PDR 5/13/94 [initials]

May 6, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor Executive Director for Operations
FROM: John C. Hoyle, Assistant Secretary
SUBJECT: SECY-94-087 - ADDENDUM TO SECY-93-318 RE-EVALUATION OF POLICY REGARDING USE OF POTASSIUM IODIDE AFTER A SEVERE ACCIDENT AT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT and SECY-93-318 - RE-EVALUATION OF POLICY REGARDING USE OF POTASSIUM IODIDE AFTER A SEVERE ACCIDENT AT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Commission has considered this issue at length. All Commissioners agree that 1) the circumstances in the U.S. which would call for the availability of potassium iodide (KI) are very remote; and 2) the costs of stockpiling a supply of KI for all people who live within a five mile radius of a U.S. nuclear power plant are relatively low.

Current Federal policy, which "does not recommend requiring predistribution or stockpiling for the general public," neither encourages nor discourages State and local authorities choosing to make KI available. The Commission continues to agree with the statement in SECY-85-167 that "a nationwide requirement for the predistribution or stockpiling for use by the general public would not be worthwhile." However, while the Commission does not believe that the stockpiling of KI near U.S. nuclear power plants is necessary to protect the public health and safety, it would not object if FEMA, State or local authorities wish to develop and support a KI program. Commissioner Rogers believes that, in order for FEMA, State or local authorities to have a viable option for a KI program, it would be prudent for the U.S. government to assure the availability of a supply of KI.

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-94-087, SECY-93-318, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

9405180183 940506 PDR 10CFR PT9.7 PDR

170007

DF02/10

In the absence of a clear-cut regulatory justification and because the Commission was unable to agree to change the policy, the current Federal policy on the use of KI remains in effect.

cc: The Chairman  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Remick  
Commissioner de Planque  
OGC  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)