



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 1, 1994

Mr. J. Phillip Bayne  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, N. W.  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Bayne:

This is in response to an April 1, 1994, letter from Mr. Alan Nelson of the Nuclear Energy Institute (formerly NUMARC) staff to Mr. H. W. Woods of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), that clarified a quote, referenced in the NUMARC white paper (forwarded by Mr. Joe F. Colvin's letter of December 7, 1993, to Chairman Selin) entitled, "Review of Federal Policy on Use of Potassium Iodide." It appears that the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) clarification of April 1, 1994, is potentially misleading.

As you know, the white paper provides supporting arguments for NEI's position that the stockpiling or predistribution of potassium iodide (KI) will not add any significant public health and safety benefit to the adequate level of protection currently provided by existing emergency preparedness at and around commercial nuclear power plants. On page 7, the white paper stated that Dr. David V. Becker, M.D., was the Chairman of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) when he wrote a paper, entitled, "Reactor Accidents, Public Health Strategies and Their Medical Implications," which was published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on August 7, 1987. The white paper ascribes to Dr. Becker the conclusion that "[i]n most accident scenarios, the overall gain from KI use seems marginal." NEI's letter of April 1, 1994, clarifies that: (1) Dr. Becker was not the Chairman of the ATA; and (2) the views of Dr. Becker were not those of the ATA.

In an April 13, 1994, letter to Chairman Selin, Dr. Becker stated that the conclusion of his paper relative to the issue of stockpiling and predistributing KI was "before a sound public policy could be established, additional scientific information was required," and that this conclusion was not discussed in the white paper. Dr. Becker also indicated that subsequent to the publishing of his paper in 1987, he expressed the opinion, during a conference, of the importance of stockpiling KI. Additionally, Dr. Becker provided the most recent statement of the ATA pertaining to this issue, entitled, "Potassium Iodide Stockpile for Nuclear Accidents," which was published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1990 and concluded "...The ATA

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RETURN TO REGULATORY CENTRAL FILES

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believes that it would be prudent to have available at central locations a suitable stockpile of potassium iodide for possible distribution should its use be contemplated." Dr. Becker indicated that he informed NEI of these errors relating to his position/title and his personal opinion relative to KI stockpiling.

On the basis of my review of these references, it appears that NEI's characterization that Dr. Becker and the ATA lend support to NEI's opposition to stockpiling KI is completely contrary to the views of Dr. Becker and the position of the ATA. This was not made explicitly clear in NEI's April 1, 1994, letter of clarification.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for clear and concise communications in order to reduce the potential for misunderstanding or confusion among your staff and the NRC staff, as well as, interested members of the public. Should you have any questions, please call me at 301/504-1705.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:  
JAMES L. MILHOAN

James L. Milhoan  
Deputy Executive Director  
for Nuclear Reactor Regulation,  
Regional Operations and Research

cc: Dr. David V. Becker, M.D.  
Professor of Radiology and Medicine  
Director, Division of Nuclear Medicine  
The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center  
525 East 68th Street  
New York, NY 10021

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EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 5/10/94

EDO CONTROL: 0010003  
DOC DT: 04/13/94  
FINAL REPLY:

David V. Becker, M.D.  
The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center

TO:

Chairman Selin

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO:

DESC:

CORRECTION TO NUMARC'S PAPER REGARDING VIEWS ON  
POTASSIUM IODIDE STOCKPILING AND DISTRIBUTION

ROUTING:

Taylor  
Milhoan  
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DATE: 04/25/94

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

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McCree

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action  
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Oth 7 - NUMARC / MEI  
X - MHS-16-5

# ACTION

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CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-94-0379 LOGGING DATE: Apr 25 94  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: DAVID BECKER  
AFFILIATION: NY (NEW YORK)  
ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN SELIN  
LETTER DATE: Apr 13 94 FILE CODE: IDR-6 IODINE RELEASE  
SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO NUMARC'S PAPER REGARDING HIS VIEWS ON  
POTASSIUM IODIDE STOCKPILING AND DISTRIBUTION  
ACTION: Appropriate  
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, COMRS, OGC, RF  
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