



SECRETARY

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

June 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael F. King
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Carrie M. Safford, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-26-0062 –
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE
REPLENISHMENT OF POTASSIUM IODIDE

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to establish, as a matter of Commission policy, that the agency will discontinue funding initial and replenishment stockpiles of potassium iodide (KI) beginning in FY 2028. The Commission has also approved the staff's continued parallel pursuit of options to meet the NRC's delegated responsibility under section 127 of the Bioterrorism Act in the following order of priority:

- (a) Establish an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another Federal agency to provide state and local governments with sufficient quantities of KI tablets, on an ongoing basis, such that KI need not be requested through the provisions of the Bioterrorism Act.
- (b) Proactively develop and offer a technical basis and recommendation to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to waive the requirements of sections 127(a) and 127(d) under the provisions of section 127(f) for the 0- to 10-mile area surrounding a nuclear power plant through established coordination with the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee.
- (c) Make KI available through the Strategic National Stockpile under the provisions of section 127(a) and 127 (c) of the Bioterrorism Act.

The staff should work these priorities in parallel with resources largely focused on priorities (a) and (b) above. Even if (a) is successfully completed, the staff should continue work on priority (b), as it provides for long-term regulatory stability.

To support states using KI during the transition, the discontinuation of NRC funding should be conditioned on a signed HHS (or other Federal agency) agreement, an OSTP waiver determination, a shelf-life extension in accordance with Federal guidance, or publication of guidelines for implementing section 127 of the Bioterrorism Act before the November 2027 procurement deadline. If none are in place, the staff should return to the Commission with options sufficiently before the deadline.

If an agreement with HHS or another appropriate Federal agency will not be reached before the first bi-annual Commissioners' Assistants note, or the staff determines that an agreement fails to provide KI to states and local governments as described in SECY-26-0062, the staff should notify the Commission via a Commissioners' Assistants briefing.

Separate from the efforts to meet NRC's delegated responsibility under section 127 of the Bioterrorism Act, the staff should work within the Federal Radiological Preparedness

Coordinating Committee to document the science, knowledge, and data available in a manner that guides state and local government decisions for the risk-informed use of KI for effective preparedness and response. This should be completed on a timeline not to interfere with the priorities above.

cc: Chairman Nieh
Commissioner Wright
Commissioner Crowell
Commissioner Marzano
Commissioner Weaver
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA