

JOHN KERRY
MASSACHUSETTS

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SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

September 29, 1999

Ms. Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

I am writing on behalf of the state-wide Massachusetts Coalition to Stockpile KI (Potassium Iodide). They have written a petition and collected a number of signatures regarding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Proposed Rulemaking (PRM-50-63A), Consideration of Potassium Iodide in Emergency Plans.

After reviewing the scientific evidence, the benefits of potassium iodide (KI) appear to justify the expense. Since nuclear accidents are unforeseeable, our only protection is unabridged preparation. We must learn from the tragedies of the past, such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island, in order to prevent them from occurring in the future. We cannot guarantee that there will never be another Chernobyl, but we can take every possible precaution known to us to contain the devastating effects of such a disaster.

KI must be administered either prior to exposure or up to six hours after exposure in order to be effective. Due to the time-sensitive success rates of KI, it should be stockpiled in every shelter, school, reception center, and hospital within the effluent pathway defined as the Emergency Planning Zone. It must also be available for purchase in pharmacies that are within the near field. State stockpiles would be appropriate for the far field, and could be located in the Emergency Planning Agency's Headquarters and sub-stations.

The question remains of who should provide the funding for the stockpiling of KI, replenishment, and associated distribution and public education costs. Perhaps, this responsibility should be borne by the individual plants as part of their responsibility for emergency preparation.

I ask that you reconsider the petition submitted by Mr. Crane on behalf of the Massachusetts Coalition to support the use of KI as an emergency planning requirement. The NRC is in a position to prevent a future disaster from claiming additional lives. Please rise to the occasion and make KI a requirement.

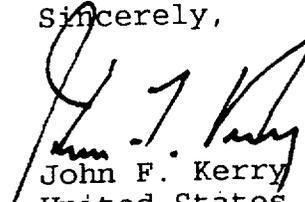
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Betsy McEvoy at (617) 565-8519. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
United States Senator

JFK/bm

MASSACHUSETTS COALITION TO STOCKPILE KI

Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility * C-10 * Citizens Awareness Network *
Clean Water Action * Don't Waste Massachusetts * MassPirg *
Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy * Toxics Action Center *
Citizens Radiological Monitoring Network * Women's Community Cancer Project

It costs less than a dime; our kids are worth it!

August 30, 1999

Senator John Kerry
1 Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114

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AUG 31 1999

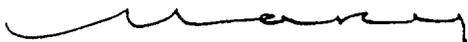
RE: Request to Sign On to/ or Support Enclosed
Comment to US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Proposed
Rulemaking (PRM-50-63A), Consideration of Potassium
Iodide in Emergency Plans due September 13th

Dear Senator Kerry:

Enclosed is a copy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed rule on the Consideration of Potassium Iodide (KI) in emergency plans. Massachusetts public interest groups and physicians have joined together to comment. Our remarks to the NRC are enclosed. We hope that you will join us by either signing on to our comments or voicing similar concerns to the NRC. By doing so, you will help our fight to prevent unnecessary suffering and disease.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely on behalf of the coalition,



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