

June 26, 1998

MEMORANDUM L. Joseph Callan
TO: Executive Director for Operations
FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/
SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-245 and SECY-98-061 - STAFF OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING A PETITION FOR RULEMAKING (PRM-50-63 AND 50-63A) RELATING TO A RE-EVALUATION OF THE POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC AFTER A SEVERE ACCIDENT AT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT and COMSECY-97-028 - FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ON POTASSIUM IODIDE

The Commission has disapproved the staff's recommendation to deny the petition for rulemaking and approved Option 1. As such, the staff should proceed with rulemaking to change 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10) by inserting the following sentence, or similar words, after the first sentence: "In developing this range of actions, consideration has been given to evacuation, sheltering, and, as a supplement to these, the prophylactic use of potassium iodide (KI), as appropriate." In addition, the Federal Register notice and the statements of considerations for the proposed and final rules should be modified to include a statement to the effect that State and local decision makers, provided with proper information, may find that the use of KI as a protective supplement is reasonable and prudent for specific local conditions. The Federal Register notice should be reviewed by the Commission before the notice is given to the other relevant agencies for their review. The Commission notes that, consistent with the Commission's decision on the June 30, 1997, SRM, the Federal government (most likely NRC) is prepared to fund the purchase of a stockpile of KI for the States upon request. The NRC staff should work with other relevant agencies to ensure that there are established procedures to enable the national stockpile to be effectively and timely used by states that have not established local stockpiles and wish to make use of the national stockpiles in the event of a severe nuclear power plant accident.

To assist the State and local decision makers, the staff should submit its paper, "Assessment of the Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) as a Public Protective Action During Severe Reactor Accidents," for public comment. Staff is encouraged to submit the assessment in whole, or in part, to peer reviewed journals for publication.

Following receipt and evaluation of the public comments, the staff should revise the paper, as appropriate, subject to Commission review. Using this as a basis, the staff should complete and issue a user-friendly information brochure containing the essential data and analyses in the technical assessment attached to SECY 98-61 to assist State and local planners in reaching an informed decision as to whether KI is an appropriate protective supplement.

(EDO)	(SECY Suspend:	Draft Federal Register Notice	7/15/98
		Notice of proposed rulemaking	10/29/98
		Issuance of final assessment report	10/29/98
		Issuance of brochure	no later than final rule)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR
DCS

SECY NOTE: This SRM, SECY 98-061, SECY 97-245, COMSECY-97-028, and the Commission Voting Record for SECY 98-061 containing the vote sheets of all Commissioners will be made publicly available 5 working days from the date of this SRM.