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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**POLICY REGARDING POTASSIUM IODIDE FOR THE PUBLIC  
(EXPOSURE TO RADIOIODINE)**

The State of North Carolina is required to consider providing potassium iodide (KI) as a protective measure for the general public to supplement evacuation and sheltering in the event of a severe nuclear power plant (NPP) accident. This requirement is the result of a revision to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) section of its emergency preparedness regulations (10CFR50.47(b)(10) as published in the Federal Register (Volume 66, Number 13, page 5427) on January 19, 2001. The change became effective on April 19, 2001.

Past state policy provided for the use of KI only for emergency workers and institutionalized individuals in the affected areas. On June 28, 2002 (following an offer from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide KI free to states wishing to incorporate pre-event and post-event distribution of KI in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) (as an adjunct protective public health measure to population evacuation) the State of North Carolina requested 750,000 doses of KI from the NRC.

These tablets will be made available on a voluntary basis to North Carolina populations residing or working within the 10-mile EPZs of NPPs in or adjacent to NC. North Carolina's Division of Public Health and its local public health departments in the affected counties will be the lead agencies for distribution of KI. Distribution to the public will begin in the Fall of 2002 and occur periodically as local distribution plans are finalized. Beginning in the Fall of 2003, KI will be placed in all schools located within each 10-mile EPZ. For further information, individuals should access the following website: <http://www.ncpublichealth.com/ki.htm>.

Members of the public who reside outside the 10-mile EPZ of a NPP or who wish to obtain KI tablets prior to local distribution may purchase KI tablets without a prescription. Some pharmacies stock KI tablets. Potassium iodide tablets also may be obtained via the Internet. A physician can prescribe KI in a liquid form that can be obtained from a pharmacy. It is recommended that individuals who choose to obtain KI on their own first access the above NC Department of Health and Human Services website to obtain accurate information on the indications and contraindications for its use.

Revised 7/10/2003