

**Resolution on Stockpiling and Distributing Potassium Iodide (KI) in Texas
for Use in Nuclear Power Plant Emergencies**

This resolution of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) speaks to the state's policy on stockpiling and distributing Potassium Iodide (KI) within the ten mile emergency planning zones surrounding Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station and South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company.

WHEREAS:

The citizens of the State of Texas are entitled to the best available protection in the event of an emergency at one of the nuclear power plants in Texas. TRAB realizes that several states in the United States have implemented plans requiring nuclear power plants to stockpile KI. However, for several reasons, the TRAB does not recommend that Texas stockpile and distribute KI:

- Many complexities surround the issue of providing KI to the general public. These include timing and logistics of stockpiling and distribution, as well as medical concerns for possible allergic reactions or adverse drug interactions.
- KI protects only against radioiodine. KI will provide no protection against exposure to all other radioactive materials that may be involved in an emergency at a nuclear power plant.
- The distribution and use of KI by the public in the event of a radiological emergency would provide partial protection at best and may provide no protection at all while conversely providing the public the impression of complete protection from radiation exposures. No known prophylaxis exists that will provide complete protection against radiation exposure.

In Texas, emergency response plans recommend evacuating the public from the affected areas. Prompt evacuation would provide sure and effective protection to the general public against all radioactivity and negate any need for KI. In special instances, when individuals cannot be evacuated (such as persons in hospitals, nursing homes, or prisons), KI would be provided.

TRAB shares the concern of the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control that stockpiling KI could create the false impression that evacuation is unnecessary. This could result in failure of the public to evacuate when recommended.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Texans should expect the highest level of protection in a radiological emergency.
- The decision by the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control regarding the distribution and use of KI should be based on the technical merits of the issue.
- The partial protection that may be afforded by KI is no substitute for the comprehensive protection afforded by timely evacuation.
- The Texas Radiation Advisory Board agrees with the current Bureau of Radiation Control position that KI should not be stockpiled for distribution to the general public.

