

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**10 CFR Part 50**

[Docket No. PRM-50-63A]

Peter G. Crane; Receipt of an Amended Petition for Rulemaking**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.**ACTION:** Amended petition for rulemaking; Notice of receipt.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received and requests public comment on an amended petition for rulemaking filed by Mr. Peter G. Crane. The amended petition has been docketed by the Commission and has been assigned Docket No. PRM-50-63A. The petitioner states, in this amendment to the earlier petition, that the rulemaking he seeks is to amend NRC's emergency planning regulations to require consideration of sheltering, evacuation, and the prophylactic use of potassium iodide for the general public in developing a range of emergency planning protective actions.

DATES: Submit comments by January 16, 1998. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except to those comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

Deliver comments to 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm on Federal workdays.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's interactive rulemaking website through the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov>). This site provides the availability to upload comments as files (any format), if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking website, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, 301-415-5905; e-mail: CAG@nrc.gov.

For a copy of the petition, write: Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. A copy of the petition is also available for public inspection, and copying for a fee, in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Jamgochian, Office of Nuclear

Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone: 301-415-6534, e-mail: MTJ1@nrc.gov; or Michael T. Lesar, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone: 301-415-7163 or Toll Free: 1-800-368-5642, e-mail: MTL@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The NRC received a petition for rulemaking dated September 9, 1995, submitted by Mr. Peter G. Crane on his own behalf. The petition was docketed as PRM-50-63 on September 12, 1995. The notice of receipt of this petition was published on November 27, 1995 (60 FR 58256). On November 12, 1997, the NRC received an amendment to this petition submitted by Mr. Crane in response to the Commission's invitation at a public meeting held on November 5, 1997, at which the petitioner spoke. The amended petition was assigned docket number PRM-50-63A. The amended petition revises the original petition by requesting that the NRC add one sentence to the planning standard in 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10) that refers to considering evacuation, sheltering, and the prophylactic use of potassium iodide for the general population in developing a range of emergency planning protective actions. In particular, as proposed, 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10) would include the use of potassium iodide (KI) as one action to be considered in emergency situations under onsite and offsite emergency plans.

Potassium Iodide

The petitioner states that KI protects the thyroid gland, which is highly sensitive to radiation, from the radioactive iodide that could be released in extremely serious nuclear accidents; that by saturating the gland with iodide in a harmless form, KI can prevent inhaled or ingested radioactive iodide from lodging in the thyroid gland, where it could lead to thyroid cancer or other illnesses; and that KI itself has a long shelf life—at least five years—and causes negligible side effects.

The petitioner further states that, in addition to preventing deaths from thyroid cancer, KI prevents radiation-caused illnesses. The petitioner states that thyroid cancer, curable in 90-95 percent of cases, generally means surgery, radiation treatment, and a lifetime of medication and monitoring. The petitioner asserts that the changes in medication that go with periodic scans put many patients on a

physiological and psychological roller coaster. The petitioner also states that hypothyroidism can cause permanent retardation in children and, if undiagnosed, can condemn adults to a lifetime of fatigue, weakness, and chills.

The Petitioner's Proposed Amendment

The petitioner initially requested that 10 CFR 50.47 be amended by revising paragraph (b)(10) to read as follows:

§ 50.47 Emergency plans.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(10) A range of protective actions, including sheltering, evacuation, and prophylactic use of iodide, have been developed for the plume exposure pathway EPZ [emergency planning zone] for emergency workers and the public. Guidelines for the choice of protective actions during an emergency, consistent with Federal guidelines, are developed and in place, and protective actions for the ingestion exposure pathway EPZ appropriate to the locale have been developed.

* * * * *

In the amended petition, the paragraph, as revised, would read as follows:

§ 50.47 Emergency plans.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(10) A range of protective actions have been developed for the plume exposure EPZ for emergency workers and the public. In developing this range of actions, consideration has been given to evacuation, sheltering, and the prophylactic use of potassium iodide (KI), as appropriate. Guidelines for the choice of protective actions during an emergency, consistent with Federal guidelines, are developed and in place, and protective actions for the ingestion exposure pathway EPZ appropriate to the locale have been developed.

* * * * *

As part of the amended petition, the petitioner also attached a proposed Statement of Considerations and, as invited by the Commission, a draft mark-up of a document from the Federal Emergency Management Agency entitled "Federal Policy on Distribution of Potassium Iodide Around Nuclear Power Sites for Use as a Thyroidal Blocking Agent."

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of December, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John C. Hoyle,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 97-32879 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P