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Title: Stockpiling Potassium Iodide

Introduced by: Evelyn Eccles, MD, and James Szocik, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation

Original Authors: Evelyn Eccles, MD, and James Szocik, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **DISAPPROVED**

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Whereas, nuclear disasters, while rare, are entirely unanticipated as seen with Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima, and

Whereas, Michigan is home to three nuclear power plants: Fermi 2, DC Cook, and Palisades, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, and American Thyroid Association all agree that the most vulnerable organ in radiation exposure is the thyroid and that prompt dosing with potassium iodide may protect the individual from the harmful effects of radiation, and

Whereas, potassium iodide is inexpensive, safe, and stable in long term storage, and

Whereas, municipalities in Ontario, Canada within range of Fermi 2 are already stockpiling potassium iodide and it is under consideration in Michigan; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS study the feasibility of and advocate for stockpiling potassium iodide in communities within fifty-mile radius of nuclear power plants with distribution by the local disaster preparedness entities.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$50,000.00 or more as this resolution would require contracting with external consultants to perform the feasibility study. Additionally, MSMS is directed to engage in governmental advocacy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT: I have the following conflict of interest to disclose: James Szocik, MD, is employed by Michigan Medicine, which receives federal funding from Medicaid, Medicare; and for resident training; as well as multiple, private insurance agencies. Dr. Szocik has consulted in the past with MPRO, a peer-reviewed organization.

**Relevant MSMS Policy:**

Air and Water Pollution

Reasonable and scientific study should be directed toward the sensible control of the major problems of air and water pollution, whether it is the dusts and wastes of industry, the products of combustion of gasoline or oil (automobiles), the combustion products of home heating and burning equipment, or of smoking tobacco. (Prior to 1990)  
 – Edited 1998  
 – Reaffirmed (Res02-16)

Nuclear Power in Michigan

MSMS advocates a public policy of cautious and reasoned development of nuclear power in Michigan. (Prior to 1990)  
 – Edited 1998

### Policy Statement of Environmental Pollution

MSMS supports efforts to improve environmental health. MSMS supports all agencies charged with the control of environmental pollution. (Prior to 1990)

- Edited 1998
- Reaffirmed (Res35-05A)
- Reaffirmed (Res02-16)

### Radioactive Waste Disposal

Lands in Michigan should not be used for any permanent above ground, or temporary and/or permanent underground nuclear waste disposal purposes until it is clearly demonstrated that such disposal of nuclear waste would not be deleterious to the people and the environment of Michigan. (Res1-90A)

- Amended 1993
- Edited 1998
- Edited 2017

### Statewide Policy on Storage of High Level Radioactive Waste

MSMS supports development of a statewide policy on storage of high level radioactive waste. (Res114-93A)

### Storing of Nuclear Waste Near the Great Lakes Shore

MSMS objects to storing nuclear waste by states and provinces within the Great Lakes Basin area in a manner which threatens to contaminate the Great Lakes. (Res27-09A)

### **Relevant AMA Policy:**

#### Risks of Nuclear Energy and Low-Level Ionizing Radiation H-455.994

Our AMA supports the following policy on nuclear energy and low-level ionizing radiation: (1) Usefulness of Nuclear Energy: Energy produced by nuclear reactors makes an important contribution to the generation of electricity in the US at present, and it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Investigation and research should continue in order to develop improved safety and efficiency of nuclear reactors, and to explore the potential of competing methods for generating electricity. The research should include attention to occupational and public health hazards as well as to the environmental problems of waste disposal and atmospheric pollution.

(2) Research on Health Effects of Low Level Radiation: There should be a continuing emphasis on research that is capable of determining more precisely the health effects of low level ionizing radiation.

(3) Uranium Mill Tailings: Uranium mill tailings should be buried or otherwise covered.

(4) Radioactive Waste Disposal: There should be acceleration of pilot projects to evaluate techniques for the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes. The decommissioning of nuclear reactors is a source of nuclear waste which requires accelerated technological investigation and planning. Local laws should be modified to allow the disposal of low level radioactive waste materials in accordance with AMA model state legislation.

(5) Occupational Safety: The philosophy of maintaining exposures of workers at levels "as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)" is commended. The present federal standards for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation are adequate. The responsibilities of the various federal agencies regarding workers in the nuclear energy industry should be clarified; these agencies include the Departments of Energy, Defense, HHS, Labor and Transportation; and the NRC, VA and EPA.

(6) Minimizing Exposures to Radiation: Each physician should attempt to minimize exposures of patients to ionizing radiation in accord with good medical practice.

(7) Radiation Exposure Standards: The present standards for exposure of populations to ionizing radiation are adequate for the protection of the public.

(8) Emergencies and Governmental Readiness: Government agencies at all levels should be prepared to respond to nuclear energy-related emergencies. There is need for improved public planning by the several federal agencies involved, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the agencies of state and local governments. Responsible officials should develop skills and undergo periodic retraining in order to be able to act appropriately during major radiation emergencies. Because emergency planning is a complex task involving aspects of health as well as problems related to utilities, state and local governments and the federal government (FEMA) would benefit from the cooperation of physicians and others in the health sciences.

(9) Federal Radiation Emergency Planning Responsibilities: Federal groups such as the NRC and FEMA must work together closely to fulfill responsibilities in radiological emergency preparedness and in crisis management. There is a need for NRC and FEMA to define better the roles of community hospitals and of physicians.

(10) Reactor Operators and Radiation Inspectors: There is a need for better training of operating personnel with regard to prevention and management of untoward reactor operating conditions. Selection, training, and ongoing performance evaluation of operating personnel, and of radiation inspectors, are key elements in the safety of reactor

workers and of the public. Physicians should help develop methods of selecting and evaluating personnel in the nuclear power industry.

(11) Radiation Training for Physicians: Physicians should be prepared to answer the questions of their patients about ionizing radiation, especially if there is a radiation emergency. Each hospital should have adequately trained physicians and a plan and protocol for receiving and caring for radiation victims.

(12) Radiation Education for the Public: Further education of the public about ionizing radiation is recommended.

(13) Location of Nuclear Reactors: All nuclear reactors built in the future should be placed in areas of low population density; present reactors located in low density areas should be managed so that the populations surrounding them remain small.

(14) Multiple Sources of Power Generation: AMA recommends the use of a diverse set of electricity generating methods and a continuing emphasis on the conservation of energy.

(15) X-Ray Security Scanners: Our AMA: (1) believes that as of June 2013, no data exist to suggest that individuals, including those who are especially sensitive to ionizing radiation, should avoid backscatter security scanners due to associated health risks; and (2) supports the adoption of routine inspection, maintenance, calibration, survey, and officer training procedures meant to ensure that backscatter security scanners operate as intended.

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Sources:

1. [http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3847933&GUID=E0199E0C-3EC1-4813-9665-FC695AFAD72B&Options=&Search=&FullText=1#.XHlvID\\_RtqY.email](http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3847933&GUID=E0199E0C-3EC1-4813-9665-FC695AFAD72B&Options=&Search=&FullText=1#.XHlvID_RtqY.email)
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