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May 14, 2003

Charles Gregory Smith, MD, MPH  
Chair, Potassium Iodide Committee  
Division of Public Health-Epidemiology Section  
1902 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1902

Dear Dr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 2003 related to administration of Potassium Iodide to schoolchildren in the event of a nuclear power plant emergency. I have reviewed all of the material you provided. The proposed procedure, as described, falls within the proscribed scope of practice for the registered nurse and/or the licensed practical nurse. During a bonafide nuclear emergency and consistent with directives from the state health director, licensed nurses can follow public health protocol and administer Potassium Iodide where indicated. Other, non-nursing personnel employed by schools would be governed under G.S. 115C-307 or other applicable law.

As usual, I appreciate your giving the Board of Nursing the opportunity to consult with you and it is a pleasure to work with you. If there is any way that we may be of assistance in communication or clarification of this process to nurses or employers of nurses, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Julia L. (Julie) George, RN, MSN  
Practice Consultant

C: Polly Johnson, RN, MSN – Executive Director  
Linda C. Thompson, RN, MSN, MBA – Director-Practice/Education