Dear Community Member,

I am reaching out to the public in the vicinity around the Diablo Canyon Power Plant with information about a protective measure that may be recommended should a nuclear power plant emergency occur that involves a release of radiation. In addition to evacuation or sheltering in place, the ingestion of potassium iodine (KI) may also be directed as a supplemental protective measure.

KI protects the thyroid gland against exposure to radioactive iodine in the unlikely event of a radiation release from a nuclear power plant. If taken in an appropriate and timely dosage, KI can block exposure of the thyroid gland to radioactive iodine. However, KI does not protect other parts of the body from exposure to other contaminants released during the emergency.

The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department is making available a two-day supply of potassium iodide (KI) in tablet form for each person who lives or works within a Protective Action Zone (PAZ) surrounding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. KI tablets that were previously distributed will be expiring. Treat the disposal of your old KI like you would any other over the counter medication.

Participation in the pre-distribution program is voluntary. If you live or work within a Protective Action Zone, you may choose to receive a two-day supply for each person in your household or for each of your employees. KI should only be ingested after specific instruction by a local or state public health official. In the event of an emergency at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, KI will not be made available to the public at the pre-distribution locations, or at the Evacuee Monitoring, Decontamination and Reception Centers so it is recommended to acquire a supply of KI in advance.

Enclosed you will find a voucher for tablets of KI. To receive your KI, fill out the voucher and take it to one of the Decontamination and Reception Centers so it is recommended to acquire a supply of KI in advance.

For your convenience, a recorded KI information line has been established if you have questions about the program. Please call (805) 788-2903.

For additional information, please reference the Emergency Planning Calendar, current full-size YP phonebook or the following websites:
San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health
San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/oes

Sincerely,

Penny Borenstein, MD
San Luis Obispo County Health Officer

November, 2014
The enclosed voucher from the County of San Luis Obispo is for the pre-distribution of free KI tablets. This is a voluntary program for those who work or reside in the EPZ.

BY SUBMITTING THIS VOUCHER TO RECEIVE POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) TABLETS, I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:

1) The use of KI is voluntary; I am not required to accept it or use it.
2) KI is NOT a substitute for evacuation or sheltering in place, which are the most effective protective actions.
3) KI protects only the thyroid gland from radioactive iodine. In a radiological release, I would be vulnerable to possible exposure to other potentially dangerous forms of radiation.
4) I assume full responsibility for using KI. I will follow the Directions for Use on the ThyroSafe consumer package insert.
5) If I use this voucher I will receive two doses for each person for whom it is requested within a PAZ.
6) In the event of an emergency at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, KI will NOT be made available to the public at the pre-distribution locations or the evacuee reception centers.

PRE-DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS
SLO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:
• Grover Beach: 286 South 16th St
• San Luis Obispo: 2191 Johnson Avenue