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## Department of Health Distributes Free Potassium Iodide Tablets to Pennsylvanians Near State's Four Active Nuclear Power Plants

*DOH hosts an annual distribution event every summer.*

**Harrisburg, PA** – The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) will offer free potassium iodide, or KI, to Pennsylvanians who live or work within 10 miles of the state's four active nuclear power plants, as part of a case of future emergencies. The DOH hosts an annual distribution event every summer. Chester and Monaca hold distributions on August 23 and 24.

"Emergency preparedness is a critical part of public health, and that includes ensuring residents living and working near nuclear power facilities know what to do in case of an emergency," said **Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen**. "Radiological events are extremely rare, but when they do happen, it is important to have potassium iodide tablets on hand. The tablets are taken at the event of a nuclear emergency and when instructed to do so by state health officials. Please be aware that KI tablets expire every few years, so please check yours and exchange them for new ones if necessary."

Potassium Iodide (KI) can add another layer of protection when instructed to be used. It helps protect the thyroid from radioactive iodine and can be taken by anyone if they are not allergic. The tablets are safe for pregnant or nursing people on thyroid medication, and children and infants.

Individuals who are unsure if they should take potassium iodide should ask a health care provider and only follow the instructions of state health officials. Residents who already have KI tablets should check the expiration date of their dose. Expired tablets may be thrown into the regular trash but should not be flushed down the toilet.

The state's four active nuclear facilities are closely regulated, secured, and well-maintained. The Common Pleas nuclear facilities are Beaver Valley Power Station, Limerick Generating Station, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, and Susquehanna Electric Station.

The KI tablets are available to all Pennsylvanians who live or work within 10 miles of the state's active nuclear power plants. Distribution centers are listed on the dates below, calling the Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH, or visit our state health center. Individuals requesting KI tablets may do so for other family members or people who live on their own. School districts and employers within a 10-mile radius can also arrange to obtain their supply.

KI tablets will be distributed at the locations below at the listed dates and times. No appointment is necessary.

### **August 22 | 2:00 to 7:00 PM**

#### **Beaver Valley Power Station**

- Beaver Valley Mall, Center at the Mall, Unit #284, 570 Beaver Valley Mall Blvd., Monaca, PA, 15061
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