

[Skip to content.](#) | [Skip to navigation.](#) | [Site Map](#)

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Contact](#)

[Search Site](#)

[Search...](#)

# [Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility](#)

[Sections](#) [Home](#) [Donate](#) [Supporters](#) [Contact](#) [Actions](#)

**Personal tools**

[Log in](#)

You are here: [Home](#) → [Library](#) → [Failures](#) → A nettle-some problem on Potomac

## A nettle-some problem on Potomac



### **According to reports filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, jellyfish have clogged intake pumps three times this month at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Calvert County, Md.**

An overabundance of jellyfish in the Chesapeake Bay is causing problems for power plants in Maryland.

According to reports filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, jellyfish have clogged intake pumps three times this month at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Calvert County, Md.

On July 7, an influx of jellyfish in a pump that circulates cooling water forced the plant to reduce the power output of its Unit 1 to 41 percent of capacity. The unit returned to 100 percent production after engineers cleared and restarted the pump, the NRC report said.

Masses of jellyfish also jammed water pumps July 6 and as recently as Wednesday, but the plant's two units maintained 100 percent output, the reports said.

Jellyfish are also causing headaches at Maryland's largest power plant, the Chalk Point Generating Station on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, an environmental analyst said.

Pat Langley said jellyfish have clogged large nets protecting cooling-water intakes. A local waterman is now dumping jellyfish from the outermost line of the nets twice a week, he said.

"It's not a perfect system, but it seems to be doing a good job," Langley said.

Chalk Point is about 30 miles upstream from the mouth of the Patuxent River. From there, Calvert Cliffs is about 10 miles up the bay.

There are indications that the annual infestation of jellyfish in Chesapeake Bay waters is worse this year than in prior years.

Langley said he could remember no other jelly-fish seasons where barrier nets had to be cleared as often as this year.

An online search of NRC event reports dating back to 1999 revealed no jellyfish problems at Calvert Cliffs prior to this month.

Jellyfish are also abundant in the lower Potomac River, but less so in fresher waters upstream.

That is good news for river swimmers at Colonial Beach, about 50 miles up from the mouth of the Potomac.

"Aside from a couple of little ones, we've had no problems with them. They usually don't show up here until around Aug. 1," said Colonial Beach Mayor G.W. "Pete" Bone Jr.

Across the Potomac in Charles County, Md., environmental analyst Liz Spitzer said jellyfish have caused no problems at the Morgantown Power Plant on the Maryland side of the U.S. 301 Bridge.

Marine scientist David A. Nemazie of the Center for Environmental Science of the University of Maryland, said jellyfish are a "balloon species" whose populations can explode under optimum conditions of salinity and water temperature.

Ideal conditions for jellyfish often occur in summer in the mid-Chesapeake Bay, including saltier portions of the Patuxent, Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, Nemazie said.

He said jellyfish populations seem to be increasing along with increases of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous in the waters where jellyfish are found.

"Large, worldwide blooms of jellyfish are regular occurrences now. They used to be rare before," Nemazie said.

A Web site maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric maps the probability of jellyfish in the Chesapeake Bay. Its address is <http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/seanettles>

Jellyfish are not the only marine species recently to beset the Calvert Cliffs power plant.

The plant reported Tuesday to the NRC that 150 to 200 cow-nosed rays had died on trash racks protecting water intakes of both units.

"The apparent cause was low oxygen levels in the Bay water," the report said. Power output was not disrupted by the death of the stingrays.

Staff reporter Rusty Dennen contributed to this story.

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2006/072006/07152006/206385>

To reach FRANK DELANO:804/333-3834 Email: [fpedelano@gmail.com](mailto:fpedelano@gmail.com)

Our news/action letters

**Choose a letter**

**Your email address**

**Visit our archives**

- ✚ [A4NR Monthly](#)
- ✚ [A4NR Weekly](#)
- ✚ [Action Letters](#)

## [Navigation](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Audio/Video](#)
- [Cartoons](#)
- [Links to Friends](#)
- [Alliance Supporters](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Contact Details](#)
- [News](#)
- [Action Letters](#)
- [Legal Documents filed by ANR](#)
- [Library](#)
  - [OUTREACH MATERIALS](#)
  - [Radioactive Waste](#)
  - [Transportation](#)
  - [Security](#)
  - [Renewable Energy](#)
  - [Failures](#)
    - [Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPP Earthquake Damage -- July 16, 2007](#)
    - [Nuclear Accidents](#)
    - [The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident - A Strategy for Recovery](#)
    - [Russian nuclear plant accident kills 1, injures 2](#)
    - [Nuclear Reactors Found to Be Leaking Radioactive Water](#)
    -

[Modern Erin Brokovich Story -- 11 Families File Suit over Braidwood Nuclear Plant Waste Contamination](#)

- [Illinois sues nuclear plant over tainted water](#)
- [Radioactive water leaks from Japan plant](#)
- [Radioactive waste leaks into aquifer in France](#)
- [Champagne Threatened By Radioactive Leak](#)
- [Michigan Reactor Shut Down Due to Heat](#)
- [Swedish nuclear reactors stopped](#)
- [Zion nuclear plant reports minor heat problem](#)
- [Nuclear plant cuts power to cool water](#)
- [Exelon reduces power output at Illinois nukes](#)
- [Heatwave shuts down nuclear power plants](#)
- [Nuclear Plant Faced Possible Meltdown](#)
- [Heat Wave Shows Limits of Nuclear Energy](#)
- [A nettle-some problem on Potomac](#)
- [Official says no threat from water leak at San Onofre reactor](#)
- [NUCLEAR HEAT](#)
- [Radioactive steam leak at Japanese nuclear plant](#)
- [Fuel-Moving Crane Breaks in Bulgaria's Nuke](#)
- [Tritium found in water under nuclear power plant - Isotope likely isn't dangerous](#)
- [Radioactive water found beneath San Onofre](#)
- [Radioactive isotope found near Oyster Creek nuclear power plant](#)
- [Lost fuel rods strengthen nuclear power foes' case](#)
- [Winning lawsuit against Dept. of Energy by NRDC, Committee to Bridge the Gap & City of Los Angeles re Santa Susana Field Lab Nuclear Accident](#)
- [Judge: Bush admin's nuclear cleanup standard puts residents at risk](#)
- [Newly restarted nuclear reactor shut down after fluid leak](#)
- [Browns Ferry Unit 1 reactor remains offline](#)

[Two German Nuclear Power Plants Close After Incidents](#)

- [Pump leaks 'hot' water at Hanford](#)
- [Yankee cooling tower fails](#)
- [Nuke fuel producer warned of problems - Recently released performance review out before Erwin spill](#)
- [Tritium level high in water at S.C. plant](#)
- [Radioactivity still found at Palisades test well](#)
- [NRC CONDUCTING SPECIAL INSPECTION AT WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT](#)
- [NRC BEGINS SPECIAL INSPECTION OF ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS AT THE POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT](#)
- [Nuclear accidents since Chernobyl report](#)
- [LET THE FACTS SPEAK](#)
- [Active fault exists near Monju \(Japan\)](#)
- [Up to 800 people checked after Spain radioactive leak](#)
- [Inside Chernobyl, The Long Shadow of Chernobyl](#)
- [How We Almost Blew Up Ohio](#)
- [Millstone Unit 2 Suffers Second Scram in Three Days](#)
- [Yankee discloses crane mishap](#)
- [Radioactive leak at Asco is 750 times more than disclosed](#)
- [Slovenia shuts down nuclear plant after cooling system leak \(loss of coolant\)](#)
- [River use banned after French uranium leak](#)
- [NUCLEAR POWER, FRANCE HALTS TRICASTIN POWER STATION](#)
- [France: Nuclear Leak Announced](#)
- [ACCIDENTS MAKE NUCLEAR QUESTIONS LOOM LARGE](#)
- [FRANCE'S NUCLEAR CONUNDRUM - Atomic World Champ on the Ropes](#)
- [Nuclear plant workers evacuated](#)
- [Regulators spot another blunder at nuclear plant - Backup battery was not connected properly for years](#)
- [At the Indian Point Nuclear Plant, a Pipe Leak Raises Concerns](#)

[Health & Safety](#)

- [Economics](#)
- [Nuclear Power & Global Warming/Climate Change](#)
- [Re-Licensing](#)
- ["Nuclear Renaissance" or shall we say "Nuclear Relapse"](#)
- [SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION \(SONGS\)](#)
- [Nuclear Power and the Environment](#)
- ["LOW-LEVEL" RADIOACTIVE WASTE](#)
- [Uranium Mining, Enrichment & Waste](#)
- [Attempts to reverse the existing legislation in place that prohibits the building of any new nuclear power plants in California](#)
- [Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy](#)
- [DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT](#)
- [CEC HEARINGS - COSTS/BENEFITS/RISKS ANALYSIS OF NUCLEAR POWER IN CA](#)
- [Foreign Nuclear News and Information](#)
- [BEIR VII: Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation](#)
- [AB 1632](#)
- [AB1046](#)
- [CEC Workshop Transcripts](#)
- [Nuclear Power in California: 2005 Status Report](#)
- [Steam Generator Staff Report](#)
- [CEC 2005 Draft Integrated Energy Report](#)
- [Why Nuclear Power Cannot Be A Major Energy Source](#)
- [Support Ltrs from SLO Board of Supes and Morro Bay City](#)
- [San Francisco Resolution](#)
- [Annual Peace Potato Party Flyer](#)
- [AB42](#)

[SB 42](#)

- [Action Alerts](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Vocabulary Library](#)
- [Letters to Send](#)

[News](#)

 [Nuclear plans hurting power companies' credit ratings 07/30/2009](#)

 [Germany strengthens rules on nuclear waste storage 07/17/2009](#)

 [Heatwaves can crimp power output across Europe 07/16/2009](#)

 [Trapping Carbon Dioxide Or Switching To Nuclear Power Not Enough To Solve Global Warming Problem, Experts Say 07/16/2009](#)

 [Study Shows Trillions of Dollars in Excess Costs If U.S. Builds 100 Nuclear Reactors 07/16/2009](#)

[More news...](#)

◀ **August 2009** ▶

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

---

This site is Copyright © 2004-2009 by The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility - a4nr.org

Working to end nuclear waste build up on California's coast

[Contact ANR](#) • [Content Notes](#)