

From: John Kersting <johnkersting@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 12:33 AM
To: MonticelloEnvironmental Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Comments on Monticello Nuclear Reactor License Extension—NRC-2023-0031

Dear NRC RE: Monticello Reactor Jessica Umana,

As a journalist, teacher and community leader, I have to say the Nuclear Industry has a long, dangerous history of incompetence and financial disasters that reach from coast to coast. The toxicity of the elements used and discarded are almost unfathomable.

I lived near Brown's Ferry in Alabama, now I am in Washington, land of WPSS and Handford. There is an emphatic public demand for better, sustainable energy. Nuclear is an ongoing, well hidden disaster in every category!

Please extend the public comment period on your Draft SEIS, and please deny the application by Northern States Power Minnesota for a second license renewal for its Monticello reactor.

The reactor continues to contaminate the drinking water with ongoing radiation releases, like the 829,000-gallon leak of radioactive tritium-contaminated wastewater, some of which, according to the Draft SEIS, discharged to the Mississippi River. (NRC Draft EIS, Agency/Docket Numbers: Docket No. 50-263; NRC-2023-0031; Docket ID NRC-2023-0031; Document Number: 2024-08746; <https://shorturl.at/ltLx5>, on page 3-47, line 11.)

The Mississippi is the source of drinking water for the Mpls/St. Paul metro (Draft SEIS, at page 3-28, line 4), and for 20 million people downstream. This is the principle matter of importance regarding the Draft SEIS -- Monticello's repeated radioactive contamination of ground water which feeds and exchanges with the Mississippi River.

The applicant's "2022 Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report," May 10, 2023, says, "There are several mechanisms that can result in doses to Members of the Public, including: Ingestion of radionuclides in food or water..." (Xcel Energy, "2022 Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report", May 10, 2023, p. 5, <https://shorturl.at/QEQ3C>)

NSPM/Xcel has repeatedly said there is "no health risk" to the public or reactor workers because the affected groundwater contains "very low levels" of tritium. But, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's website warns: "[T]he radiation protection community conservatively assumes that any amount of radiation may pose some risk for causing cancer and hereditary effect, and that the risk is higher for higher radiation exposures. A linear no-threshold dose-response relationship is used to describe the relationship between radiation dose and the occurrence of cancer. ... any increase in dose, no matter how small, results in an incremental increase in risk.

The NRC has concluded that Monticello's leaked tritium discharged to this drinking water source. River water dilution does not eliminate the tritium which persists in the water for about 123 years (10 radioactive half-lives). Even trace amounts of tritium ingested in drinking water increases a person's risk of cancer, pregnancy problems, birth abnormalities, and other illnesses. This is especially true for women, girls, and fetuses, because tritium crosses the placenta. For these reasons, deny the application out of hand!

Sincerely,
John Kersting
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Federal Register Notice: 89FR31225
Comment Number: 1004

Mail Envelope Properties (ea7a1749-04a8-43de-84e1-98e42fb97bab)

Subject: [External_Sender] Comments on Monticello Nuclear Reactor License
Extension–NRC-2023-0031
Sent Date: 6/11/2024 12:33:24 AM
Received Date: 6/11/2024 12:33:31 AM
From: John Kersting

Created By: johnkersting@yahoo.com

Recipients:
"MonticelloEnvironmental Resource" <MonticelloEnvironmental.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: salsalabs.org

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	3087	6/11/2024 12:33:31 AM

Options
Priority: Normal
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date: