

**LIST OF LEAKS AND SPILLS AT**  
**OPERATING U.S. COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS**  
**November 15, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is a list of operating reactor sites that experienced a radioactive leak or spill to the onsite owner controlled area where the concentration of tritium in the leak source, or in a groundwater sample exceeded 20,000 pCi/L at some time since initial startup. A tritium concentration of 20,000 pCi/L is used as the threshold for inclusion in the list because it is the drinking water standard in Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act. This version updates the October 2023 list of leaks and spills.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION**

Recent information was compiled by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff based on input from the nuclear power plant staff, Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Reports and Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Reports (see the NRC's web site for each site's detailed annual reports at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/tritium/plant-info.html>). Historical information is based on Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Reports, Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Reports, Groundwater Questionnaires, Preliminary Notifications, Event Notifications, Licensee Event Reports, NRC Inspection Reports, Special Reports, and other documents submitted by the licensees to the NRC.

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After a radioactive leak or spill, tritium is generally the first radionuclide to be identified in groundwater. This is because tritium travels as a form of water through the soil faster than other radionuclides. The tritium concentrations for each plant documented in the list below consist of (1) the historical maximum concentration and (2) the "current" concentration. These values provide a reasonable approximation of the magnitude and extent of the historical leaks and spills as well as the current conditions.

The value listed as the "Historical Maximum Concentration of Tritium in a Leak Source or in a Groundwater Sample" is an approximation of the historical maximum tritium concentration from abnormal releases in which tritium from reactor operations contacted the onsite soil since initial startup. The timeframe in which the historical maximum tritium releases occurred is listed next to the maximum concentration value.

The value listed as the "Current Maximum Groundwater Sample Tritium Concentration" is a reasonable approximation of the current maximum tritium concentrations based on reported abnormal releases to onsite groundwater, or groundwater samples that have been collected and analyzed by the licensee. If a value has not been updated from the one listed in the previous version, it indicates the value continues to be a good approximation of the current conditions.

As documented in the licensee annual reports, groundwater samples were collected from onsite locations and analyzed including both drinking water wells and non-drinking water sample points (e.g., groundwater monitoring wells, storm drains, man holes, bore holes, piezometer tubes,

surface water, puddles, and rain water). Although some values in the list exceed 20,000 pCi/L, none of those samples were collected from a drinking water well or from a municipal drinking water system. None of the samples collected from drinking water wells and municipal drinking water systems have ever exceeded the EPA drinking water standard of 20,000 pCi/L.

## **SUMMARY**

There are 54 nuclear power plant sites in the United States that are currently operating. Historical records indicate 37 of these sites have at one time or another had leaks or spills that involved tritium concentrations greater than or equal to 20,000 pCi/L. Six sites are currently reporting tritium in groundwater, from a leak or spill, in excess of 20,000 pCi/L. No site is currently detecting tritium in groundwater in the offsite environment, or in drinking water, in excess of 20,000 pCi/L. Tritium rapidly disperses and dissipates in the environment, and as a result, tritium from leaks and spills is typically not detected outside the facility boundary.

### **List of Historical Leaks and Spills at Operating U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Plants**

It is important that the preceding paragraphs accompany any reproduction of this list so that the information is communicated in the proper context.

November 15, 2024 Updates

Plant	Historical Maximum Concentration of Tritium in a Leak Source or in a Groundwater Sample, pCi/L	Timeframe of Historical Maximum Concentration of Tritium in a Leak Source or in a Groundwater Sample, pCi/L	Current Maximum Groundwater Sample Tritium Concentration, pCi/L
Beaver Valley	25,583	September, 2010	11,075
Braidwood	247,000	1998	724
Browns Ferry	36,444	March, 2016	2,550
Brunswick	19,000,000	December, 2010	63,500
Byron	82,000	February, 2006	380
Callaway	1,600,000	July, 2014	370
Catawba	47,500	October, 2007	2,320
Columbia	270,000	March, 1993	10,500
Davis-Besse	37,500	October, 2008	420
Dresden	10,312,000	July, 2004	6,280
Fitzpatrick, J.A.	105,000	April, 2010	355
Ginna, R.E.	20,000	1995	268
Grand Gulf	2,240,000	March, 2014	5,990
Hatch, E.I.	6,840,000	September, 2011	973,400
Limerick	3,950,000	February, 2009	3,270
LaSalle	1,230,000	July, 2010	3,940
Millstone	4,000,000	November, 2007	2,240

Plant	Historical Maximum Concentration of Tritium in a Leak Source or in a Groundwater Sample, pCi/L	Timeframe of Historical Maximum Concentration of Tritium in a Leak Source or in a Groundwater Sample, pCi/L	Current Maximum Groundwater Sample Tritium Concentration, pCi/L
Monticello	4,220,000	November, 2022	<b>208,000</b>
Nine Mile Point	44,000	August, 2012	<b>&lt;199</b>
North Anna	79,559	August, 2013	<b>4,428</b>
Oconee	45,000	December, 2011	<b>3,290</b>
Palo Verde	4,200,000	March, 1993	<b>&lt;360</b>
Peach Bottom	196,000	March, 2010	<b>1,680</b>
Perry	59,900	2006	<b>217</b>
Quad Cities	7,500,000	2008	<b>735,000</b>
River Bend	1,135,000	February, 2013	<b>230,000</b>
Salem	15,000,000	April, 2003	<b>68,100</b>
Seabrook	750,000	1999	<b>&lt;554</b>
Sequoyah	25,060	2015	<b>13,800</b>
St. Lucie	161,000	2000	<b>4,150</b>
Summer	23,000	July, 2011	<b>2,000</b>
Surry	31,900	October, 2007	<b>10,400</b>
Susquehanna	>20,000	1995	<b>207</b>
Turkey Point	>20,000	1979	<b>2,930</b>
Vogtle	>20,000	1990s	<b>240</b>
Waterford	22,000	1997	<b>&lt;509</b>
Watts Bar	550,000	February, 2005	<b>13,100</b>