



# TROUBLE on the WATER



## 829,000-Gallon Radioactive Leak & Xcel's Response Should Disqualify Monticello Nuclear Reactor License Extension

- **The Monticello reactor:** on the Mississippi River, 40 miles northwest of Minneapolis, owned by Xcel Energy, is 54 years old, among the three oldest in the United States.
- **November 22, 2022: Xcel first reported it found leaked radioactivity in onsite groundwater.** The Xcel notice had no information about the volume, source, or radioactivity of the leak, YET it claimed, "There was no impact on the health and safety of the public or plant personnel."
- Xcel later reported that about 400,000 gallons contaminated with high levels of radioactive tritium had leaked into the ground. One year later, this estimate was **more than doubled to 829,000 gallons.**
- **March 2023:** Public informed of the tritium leak four months after it occurred. While this leak was kept secret by Xcel, the State of Minn. and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Xcel applied for a **20-year operating license extension.**

This radioactivity is a threat to the Mississippi River and the people and animals that rely on it. Breathing or drinking tritium during pregnancy is linked to cancers in newborns, loss of pregnancy, and birth abnormalities. Contaminated water used for irrigating crops can cause tritium to enter the food chain – and us.

Tritium stays dangerous in the environment for over 100 years. There were at least five other cancer-causing chemicals in the leaked wastewater - the same poisons related to illnesses and deaths caused by nuclear disasters at Chernobyl and Fukushima.

- **July 20, 2023:** CBS Minn.: "Xcel Energy:... **leaked water may have reached the Miss. River.**"
- The city of Minneapolis proudly declares, "Our water comes from the Mississippi River. Roughly 21 billion gallons of water are pumped from the river each year, **57 million gallons of drinking water every day.**"
- **How can we know what disastrous reactor accident will come next?** Xcel said the leak had been stopped, but admitted March 22, 2023 the first fix failed, spilling radioactive water a second time. Xcel applied to run Monticello until it is 80 years old. It was designed to run for just 40 years. Many more age-related issues have been identified in the reactor by federal regulators.
- **Public Comment, March 2024:** The time for public comment on the license extension is March 2024. Say NO! to deadly radioactivity harming our children, environment, drinking water and food. Demand accountability from your utility. Now is the time to stand up for putting public health before profits.

### TIMELINE of PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Late February 2024: 30-to-45-day public comment period starts on license extension Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
- To be announced: Public meeting on Draft SEIS "if a "threshold" of public interest is met
- April 2024: End of Public Comment on Draft SEIS
- October 2024: Final SEIS available to public

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Send your public comments opposing the license
- Attend the Public Meeting in person: Date TBA
- Find out how and when with this link or QR code:



SCAN ME

<http://tinyurl.com/mpvfjnm>