Re. "Monticello Nuclear Plant Begins Refueling, Maintenance for Extended Operation Through 2050", Jake Judd, KNSI Radio, Apr 18, 2025, Associated Press, https://knsiradio.com/2025/04/18/738110/

Dear Jake Judd and KNSI,

I am writing about a critical correction needed in your article above. The piece makes use of an outdated and incorrect estimate of the volume of the November 2022 cooling water leak from the Monticello nuclear reactor.

Xcel Energy's initial estimate of this leak — 400,000 gallons — has officially been more than doubled, and is now 829,000 gallons. Xcel's updated estimate was made public in December 2024 by *The Monticello Times*, and has been officially documented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Xcel Energy, and reported by Minn. Public Radio and Fox9-KMSP.

The current estimate of 829,000 gallons is used repeatedly by Xcel and by the NRC in formal documentation and environmental reports filed in regard to the 20-year operating license extension for the 54-year-old Monticello reactor, which was recently granted by the NRC.

Please see the links below for confirmation of the updated and current estimate of the leak's volume. And please post a correction of your accidental error, and please report the correct estimate in any future reporting on Monticello operations.

Sincerely,
John LaForge, Co-director
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Nukewatch
740A Round Lake Road
Luck, WI 54853
(715) 472-4185
www.nukewatchinfo.org

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Kirsti Marohn, "Tritium found in two more monitoring wells near Monticello nuclear plant," Minnesota Public Radio, April 17, 2025,
"The utility has been working to recover tritium from as much as 900,000 gallons of contaminated water that leaked into the ground at its Monticello nuclear plant more than two years ago."
https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/04/17/tritium-found-in-two-more-monitoring-wells-near-monticello-nuclear-plant

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement Regarding Subsequent License Renewal for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Final Report," **November 2024**, p. 3-43: "A water balance analysis estimated the volume of water released into the subsurface from the initial leak to be 829,000 ± 68,100 gal (3,138,106 ± 257,786 L), with a total activity of 14.0 ± 1.2 Ci (99 percent of the activity from tritium) (Xcel 2023-TN9609)". https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2430/ML24309A221.pdf

Xcel Energy, "2023 Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report For Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant For the period covering January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023," https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2413/ML24135A191.pdf; p.1: "The total release was quantified at 829,000 ± 68,100 gallons containing a total activity of 14.0 ± 1.2 Ci."

Xcel Energy Newsroom, 14 Dec 2023, "Groundwater recovery enters final phase at Xcel Energy's Monticello plant" "The company has since completed a detailed accounting based on more comprehensive information now available, including a higher flow rate of water and signs that the leak may have started a few weeks earlier than previously estimated. This updated and more accurate modeling places the total amount of water leaked between 750,000 and 900,000 gallons, including about 14 curies of tritium."
https://newsroom.xcelenergy.com/news/groundwater-recovery-enters-final-phase-at-xcel-energy-s-monticello-plant-MCRTNOMXTBTNFYNLMVJD6GLPQXZQ

***The Monticello Times*, "Xcel groundwater recovery enters final phase," Dec. 21, 2023**, "This updated and more accurate modeling places the total amount of water leaked between 750,000 and 900,000 gallons, Xcel said, including about 14 curies of tritium."
https://www.hometownsource.com/monticello_times/xcel-groundwater-recovery-enters-final-phase/article_7e834ce8-9ea3-11ee-8e03-9f36a6b5d962.html

FOX 9, KMSP, "Xcel Energy fined $14K for excess storage of radioactive water at Monticello plant without permit," December 14, 2023, "A tritium leak occurred at the nuclear plant in November 2022, although the public wasn't made aware until March 2023. Xcel Energy initially estimated 400,000 gallons of contaminated water leaked but announced Thursday it's likely between 750,000 and 900,000 gallons of water leaked, and it may have started a few weeks earlier than initially thought."
https://www.fox9.com/news/xcel-energy-fined-14k-for-excess-storage-of-radioactive-water-at-monticello-plant-without-permit