



Xcel Energy Media Relations
414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 215-5300
www.xcelenergy.com

We closely monitor our operations and any impact they may have on the environment. As a result of powering down our Monticello plant, we have seen an impact to fish, which is related to the change in river water temperature as the plant comes offline and not a result of tritium.

On March 24, we began powering down the plant to more quickly perform the repairs needed to permanently resolve a leak of water containing tritium at the plant. While the leak continues to pose no risk to the public or to the environment, we determined the best course of action was to power down the plant and make the permanent fix immediately, work that we have since completed.

In Minnesota, our nuclear and thermal plants use once-through cooling. This process continuously draws water from nearby rivers for cooling steam and equipment and then returns the water. When a plant is running, it warms the water in the nearby river, keeping fish active. When a plant is taken offline, the river cools down. Fish are affected by the change in water temperature. While we powered down the plant slowly to mitigate the impacts to fish in the river, 230 fish have died.

We are working closely with the Minnesota DNR and [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#). Our plants follow the requirements of state water appropriation and federal Clean Water Act wastewater discharge permits. We systematically treat, monitor, and analyze the water to ensure the facilities meet discharge requirements and protect fish and other aquatic life.