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March 31 Update:

On March 25 the Monticello Nuclear Generating plant powered down to allow crews to make permanent repairs to the pipe that caused the recent leak. Repairs are now complete, and the plant is back online.

While making repairs the plant also replaced another pipe that was situated in a similar position as the pipe that leaked. This second pipe was not compromised, but the company took the proactive step to replace it to avoid any potential future issues. Plant operators have validated that both new pipes are functioning properly and are leak-free.

The pipe that leaked is being evaluated by an independent third party to determine the cause of the failure with a metallurgical analysis. The plant inspected over 170 locations in searching for the initial leak, which included both visual and ultrasonic guided wave testing. That indicated that there was a single source of the leak, which the plant was able to verify while it was offline. While it is offline for refueling this spring, it will conduct a broad inspection of the plant and will continue the close inspection of the pipes that run between the reactor and turbine buildings that carry water or steam. That will include inspection using a camera and borescope where possible.

About 35% of the leaked tritium has now been recovered from the groundwater (2.78 curies of an estimated 8 curies total). The company continues to work closely with state and federal regulators as well as the Monticello community and its leaders.

The company's website will be updated with this and other information as it is available:
<https://my.xcelenergy.com/s/outage-safety/public-safety/monticello-groundwater>