Nebraska nukes: Missouri River Meltdown Monitor with videos / editorial

Contributed by Roger Herried
27 June 2011

The time is right for sinking the nuclear beast, peacefully -- mini-editorial

Just a few months following the Fukushima nuke disaster, followed by the reaction of 4 out ot 5 Japanese to reject nuclear power henceforth, we now have two Nebraska nuclear stations in danger of getting out of control.

At this watershed time in history the scam of unfathomably dangerous nuclear power is unraveling. Now the Associated Press has done a damning investigation on the total joke of possible evacuation around U.S. nuke plants.

From reading AP's story, Populations around US nuke plants soar (by Jeff Donn, AP), I was struck by the pervasive unconsciousness surrounding such a mistaken movement of humans. The lesson of this seemingly uncaring tide of humanity is that individual and community responsibility is paramount.

Only if we have a sense of that, in practice in our daily lives, can we benefit from leadership that reflects our true needs and wishes.

Climate change is increasingly taking charge of nuclear un-safety issues. Extreme rains and broken berms in Nebraska and South Dakota, at an unexpected time of year, were inevitable thanks to global warming. This kind of weather/Earth event or devastating earthquake should be expected elsewhere at many a nuke plant in the coming years. Our author Roger Herried has close familiarity with the potential disaster zone in Nebraska and South Dakota. As to his story below, I began posting it even before reading it, such is my respect for his knowledge. - Jan Lundberg

Missouri Meltdown Monitor (Update 14: June 27th)

Missouri Meltdown Monitor (Update 14: June 27th) | The Energy Net

var ajaxurl = "http://www.energy-net.org/blog/wp-load.php";

jQuery(document).ready(function() { jQuery("a.confirm").click(function() { if (confirm('Are you sure?')) return true; else return false; }); });

The Energy Net

Skip to content

Skip to content

HomeAbout The BlogCultureNuclear: The Deal of the Century!

← NRDC: Watch out for Trojan horses
Fukushima News: June 6th June 12th 2011 →

Missouri Meltdown Monitor (Update 14: June 27th)

Posted on June 6, 2011 by aaenergynet

As a result of one of the wettest winters in over 100 years flooding on the Missouri River is threatening two nuclear reactors located in Nebraska. The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has estimated that the nuclear facilities could be under up to ten feet of water and stay that way into August during their controlled release of flood waters.

The two commercial nuclear power plants currently in serious danger from flooding are located near Omaha Nebraska. The 800 MegaWatt Fort Calhoun station north of Omaha has garnered the majority of the coverage so far. That station was closed in April for refueling and maintenance. However, the 500 MegaWatt Cooper Nuclear Station which is currently operating could eventually be worse due to the danger of levees that protect the unit from waters going several feet higher. The worst case scenario would be a loss of offsite power to keep the nuclear fuel properly cooled.

- Related News

- 6-27 Ft Calhoun Flood stage: 32.52 feet

- 6-28 forecast: 33.1 feet

Flood Stage: 26.5 feet

- Current Flooding Level: Major

- Major Flood Stage: 33 feet

- 6-23 Flow: 188,000 cubic feet/second

- Historic Crests: 1952 33.5 feet

- 6-27 Cooper Flood Stage: 43.1 feet

- 7-1 forecast: 44 feet

Flood Stage: 33 feet

- Current Flooding Level: Major

- Major Flood Stage: 43 feet

- 6-22 Flow: 166,000 cubic feet/second

- Historic Crests: 2010 42.89 feet

- 1994 44.3 feet

- Radiation Network: no major radiation releases
- French Coverage (images)
- KETV Extended Coverage
- 6-6: Fire at Fort Calhoun
- Footage of Ft Calhoun Flooding
- 6-15: FAA closes air space over nuclear facilities

- 6-14: WBAI: Gunderson interview
- NRC Blog: Fort Calhoun
- NRC: 10-2010 License Event Report
- NRC: 5-2011 License Event Report
- NRC: 6-20: Cooper Unusual Event Alert
- NRC: 6-20 Ft Calhoun Unusual Event Alert
- NRC: 6-26 Incident Response Center opened
- NRC: Fire Event 46932
- NRC: Sewage Leak 46941

- NRC: Sewage Leak 46953
- NRC: Flooding 46965
- NRC: Oil Leak 46989
- 6-17: NRC: No Flood Danger at Ft Calhoun
- Omaha Public Power District Flood Information Center
- OPPD Ft. Calhoun Rumor Control
- OPPD Sandbagging Videos
- Cryptome Image Library

- 5-27: NRC Flooding Event Report
- 6-16: Bulletin of Atomic Scientists: Rising Water Falling Journalism
- 6-12: AP Wire story on flooding
- National Flood Zone Nuclear Map

6-18: FEMA declares emergency

- US ACE Media Resources

- US ACE Missouri River Watch

- Nebraska Emergency Center

- Wikipedia: Ft Calhoun Nuclear Station

- Live Missouri River WebCam

- KETV: Aerial Video of Fort Calhoun

Since early June the Omaha Public Power District(OPPD) has had to deal with a number of flood related events at Ft Calhoun (see sidebar for list). The latest was the collapse of the 8 foot high plastic berm protecting the facility on On June 26th. The first emergency came on 6-6 when a pump for the spent fuel pond was briefly knocked out. Concern over the precarious state of affairs clearly shifted when the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) arrived Sunday the 26th to investigate the safety status of the two reactors. On the 27th, the National Weather Service upgraded its flood warning at Fort Calhoun from moderate to Major.

Due to the extreme winter including major rains in May the Corp of Engineers announced that it would release 150,000 cubic feet of water per second at Gavins Point Dam at Yankton SD, but was forced to increase that to 160,000 feet by June 24th. This would increase flooding by up to a half a foot. ACE also acknowledged that this level would continue into August. This is five times more water than the Corp has ever released before, and the rainy season has not ended yet (see below for June rain amounts). Besides the tornado season is still in full swing as one powerful tornado and 23 others ripped through central Nebraska according to kolotv.com on 6-20. Concerns also continue to mount around more water coming into the Missouri from tributaries below Gavins Point.

embedded by Embedded Video

YouTube Gavins Point Dam Releases

At least one large levee north of the Cooper facility has been breached on June 23rd forcing evacuations. This has resulted in water levels dropping nearly a foot at Cooper. Its not confirmed yet, but one source said that in past flooding ACE blew up levees to protect the nuclear facilities. They did just this during flooding earlier this year. The question whether even more levees not to mention dams can withstand the coming weeks of flooding? The FAA has restricted any air travel over the endangered facilities, very likely at the request of the OPPD and NPPD after a local station went ahead and showed flooding at Fort Calhoun after being requested not to do so. Officials have expressed concern about the ability of a levee around the Cooper Nuclear Facility located 70 miles south of Omaha to hold up.
Gavins Point Dam

The danger exists where even greater levels of water could increase the flood levels well beyond the capacity of the levees and sandbagging operations that have been put in place, resulting in an American Fukushima styled nuclear disaster from flooding. There is growing anger at ACE for waiting so long before starting its controlled flooding. Some say that this was because the Ohio Flooding took precedent, but ACE claims that it was due to the heavy May rains as the cause.

Background
Blair Flooding

The Missouri River is the longest river in North America at 2,300 miles and and has hundreds of tributaries feeding it. It is also a tributary of the Mississippi River, making the entire system the fourth largest in the world. The river has a large floodplain (the full size of the river in the distant past) that averages between 10-20 miles across, with the river being about a mile wide prior to damming. From hard lessons, there was little human development on the flood plain until the coming of the big dams. An example of the power of the Missouri River came in 1964 when a newly completed bridge over the Missouri at Sioux City Iowa was destroyed during that year s flooding.

The US Army Corps of Engineers completed a series of large 6 dams on the Missouri River by the mid 19602s, the last of the six being located near Yankton SD called Gavins Point Dam. With the dams in place, everybody went back to putting farms, including two nuclear power plants on the flood plain.
Corps of Engineers Flooding Map

The Corps of Engineers released a set of projected flood maps for the area from Yankton SD throughout Nebraska showing what they think will happen in terms of controlled flood levels in the region. Based on these maps, both of Nebraska s nuclear facilities are in severe danger. The Fort Calhoun unit located 19 miles north of Omaha Nebraska is projected to be under water from 4 to over 10 feet of water (see map below). Note that in May of this year, the NRC hit Ft. Calhoun for poor flood control problems from flooding that took place last year. According to David Lochbaum from the Union of Concerned Scientists, the NRC yellow tagged Ft. Calhoun s owners last year over concerns that the facility couldn t withstand the kind of flooding we are seeing this year. The NRC ordered that additional precautions be taken. The facility is a 500 MegaWatt Combustion Engineering PWR reactor that is currently shut down.

Cooper Nuclear Station

The other reactor the Cooper nuclear station is located 70 miles south of Omaha and is an 830 MWe General Electric BWR reactor and is currently at full operation. this is a slightly newer General Electric design than the reactors that recently melted down at Fukushima in Japan. It is predicted to be under water from 4-8 feet. Behind the reactor and to the Northwest are located levees that are meant to keep at least reduce flooding by 2 feet.

Beyond Nuclear has petitioned the NRC to close all General Electric Mark 1 Reactors in the U.S. due safety concerns. Nebraska s Cooper Nuclear Station and Fukushima are of the same design.

The Cooper Nuclear Station which is operated by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) declared an Unusual Event on Sunday June 19th as flooding has reached beyond 42.5 feet, setting off emergency flood planning at the facility. The river rose nearly 4 feet since Friday the 17th reaching 44.6 feet and all time record, and flows increased nearly 50,000 Cubic Feet Per Second. The US ACE upgraded flood level from moderate to major.

The St. Louis Beacon did a piece showing that the current flooding is also endangering an old nuclear waste dump along the Missouri near St. Louis called West Lake landfill. The article also does an excellent job of pointing out the fact that inappropriate development has played a major role in the growing number impacts from flooding.

Fort Calhoun Flooding

Cooper Nuclear Station Flooding

Projected Flood Map: Cooper Station

Projected Flood Map: Fort Calhoun

Cooper Nuclear Station Flood levels

Fort Calhoun Flood Levels

Nebraska Nuclear Alert News

Sunday June 26th, 2011

- Examiner Nuclear flood threat: 1100 troops, 25,000 homes flooded, NRC chief onsite (vid)

- Colorado Independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission says spent fuel casks near flood water pose no threat Lynda Waddington

- AP Google Flood berm collapses at Nebraska nuclear plant Timberly Ross

- CNN Flood berm bursts at Nebraska nuclear plant

- Gather Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Danger of Flooding

- Gamut News Video: Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station Berm Collapses

- New York Times Concern at Nebraska Reactors as Floodwaters Rise Matthew L. Wald

- Reuters Nebraska residents shrug off flood risk to nuclear plant Michael Avok

- Reuters Floodwaters surround nuke plant after breach Lucia Mutikani, John Crawley and Michael Avok

Friday June 24th, 2011

- Colorado Independent Too little water for nuclear power in Colorado; too much of the stuff in neighboring Nebraska David O. Williams

- HNN Huntingtonnews Rad Report: Simulation of Plume Over Nebraska; NPPD Doesn t Respond to HNN Questions Tony Rutherford

- Kansas City Star Nebraska nuclear plant gets relief from levee breach MiamiHerald

- Nebraska StatePaper Levee Fails Upstream From Cooper Nuclear Station Authorities: Don t worry

- New York Times A Nuclear Plant s Flood Defenses Trigger a Yearlong Regulatory Confrontation Peter Behr

- Reuters Nuclear agency head to visit flooded Nebraska reactors Michael Avok

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch NRC chairman to tour both Neb. nuclear plants

- Minneapolis Star Tribune State energy executive: Nuclear plants are safe Judy Poferl

- Iowa City Press Citizen From radioactive waste to censorship Bob Elliott

- Iowa Independent blog NRC spokesman: No need for Nebraska spent nuclear fuel casks to be protected Lynda Waddington

- Missouri News Horizon As Flood Grows Heineman Glad Nuke Chief Is Coming Joe Jordan

Thursday June 23rd, 2011

- Rachel Maddow Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station Flooding (video)

- CNN Officials monitor rising floodwaters at Nebraska nuclear plants

- Nebraska StatePaper Rumors Fly As Floodwaters Rise Around Nuclear Plants

embedded by Embedded Video

YouTube We Almost Lost Nebraska

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

- NRC NRC Tracking Flooding at Two Nebraska Nuclear Power Plants

- HNN Huntingtonnews US Accused of News Blackout on Nebraska Nuke Plant Sorcha Faal

- Reuters NRC tracking flooding at two Nebraska nuclear power plants Lane Hickenbottom

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

- KETV 4 Army Corps To Release More Water From Gavins Point

- St. Joseph News-Press River watch continues for Cooper Nuclear Station Ray Scherer

- Nebraska Watchdog NPPD: Nuke Plant Could Be Shut Down “In Three Seconds”, Critics Still Worry

Monday, June 20, 2011

- ACE Inflow rate discussion across the Missouri Basin

- AP Google River falls short of Nebraska nuke plant shutdown
- New York Times Flooding Brings Worries Over Two Nuclear Plants A. G. Sulzberger and Matthew L. Wald
- Omaha World-Herald Cooper was near flood shutdown Kevin Cole

- Plattsmouth Journal NEMA flooding update
- UPI River level prompts nuclear plant warning
- Washington Post Neb. nuclear plant avoids shutdown after Missouri River rises to within 18 inches of facility
- World Nuclear News US plants on flood alert

Sunday, June 19, 2011

- FOX News Missouri Levees Breached by Water Releases
- Gamut News Video: U.S. nuclear plant remains closed
- HNN Huntingtonnews Breaking&Rad Report: Unusual Event Nebraska Emergency Level 4 and Now Worse

- Nebraska City News Press Cooper Nuclear Station declares Notification of Unusual Event
- Washington Post Water flows over tops of levees in Missouri; flooding alert issued for Neb. nuclear plant
- WOWT Declaration at Cooper Nuclear Station

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Associated Content Nebraska Nuclear Plant Faces Missouri River Flood Fight Charles Simmins

- Dubuque Telegraph Herald Officials: Nuclear plant safe
- KETV Omaha OPPD Dispels Nuclear Meltdown Rumors In Ft. Calhoun

- Pakistan Nation US orders news blackout over crippled Nebraska Nuclear Plant: report

Friday, June 17, 2011

- AP Google Officials say Neb. nuke plant is safe from flood Josh Funk

- Business Insider Airspace Over Flooded Nebraska Nuclear Power Plant Still Closed Ricky Kreitner

- Omaha World-Herald NRC: No flood danger at reactor Nancy Gaarder

- Reuters Nebraska nuclear reactor dry though surrounded by flood David Hendee

- The Examiner Nuclear energy a solution for Texas? Lori Lee

- Hawaii News Daily Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant: How Bad Can It Get? Tom Burnett

- KTTS Regulators: Missouri River Threatens Nuclear Plants

- Omaha World-Herald NRC: No flood danger at reactor Nancy Gaarder

- St. Louis Beacon Bad combination: Floodplains, nuclear materials and understated risk Bob Criss

Thursday, June 16, 2011

- 9NEWS Nebraska nuclear plant managers answer rumors Jeffrey Wolf

- Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Rising water, falling journalism Dawn Stover

- Global Research Nebraska Nuclear Reactor Flooded

- NIRS Flood at Fort Calhoun

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
embedded by Embedded Video

YouTube Missouri Flooding & Fort Calhoun

- Hawaii News Daily Nebraska Nuclear Plant at Level 4 Accident Tom Burnett

- Syracuse Post-Standard Missouri River Flooding
Westport-News Neb. s Terry calls for NRC chief to resign

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

- Nebraska StatePaper Cooper Nuke Plant Will Get More NRC Oversight

embedded by Embedded Video

YouTube WBAI: Arnie Gunderson Interview

Monday, June 13, 2011

NRC NRC Cites Cooper Nuclear Station for Inspection Finding of Low to Moderate Safety Significance (pdf-)

Tuesday, June 07, 2011

- WOWT Cooper Nuclear Station Eyes Water Levels

Monday, June 06, 2011

- Lincoln Journal Star Low-level emergency declared at nuclear power plant

This entry was posted in . Bookmark the permalink.

← NRDC: Watch out for Trojan horses
Fukushima News: June 6th June 12th 2011 →

One Response to Missouri Meltdown Monitor (Update 14: June 27th)

Pingback: Reactor in Nebraska Threatened by Flood |

Leave a Reply Cancel reply
You must be logged in to post a comment.

Email Contact: abalone "@" energy-net.org

Delicious/aaenergynet/nuke.news: Nuclear Power News Stories
- 4 out of 5 want nuclear reactors scrapped in Japan - Yahoo! News
- Ministry official who released book criticizing gov't over nuke crisis asked to resign - The Mainichi Daily News
- Ibaraki seafood processors demand 1.85 bil. yen in damages from TEPCO - The Mainichi Daily News
- RPT-SPECIAL REPORT: Japan's 'throwaway' nuclear workers | Reuters
- TEPCO to pay 88 bil. yen in compensation to nuclear crisis evacuees - The Mainichi Daily News
- Antinuclear group to hold 1st of annual meetings in Fukushima - The Mainichi Daily News
- TEPCO likely failed to vent No. 1 reactor at tsunami-hit nuclear plant - The Mainichi Daily News
- Shizuoka gov. urges revision to radiation limit for tea leaves - The Mainichi Daily News
- Gov't eyes 100 bil. yen fund to track Fukushima residents' health - The Mainichi Daily News
- Nuclear power plant debate in Fresno heats up | abc30.com
- asahi -BEHIND THE MYTH: 'Nuclear village' rules itself in TEPCO hierarchy - English
- French public want to abandon nuclear power, survey finds - The Connexion
- Nuclear crisis could cost Japan up to Y20 tril over 10 years: study ‹ Japan Today: Japan News and Discussion
- Cooling pipe breach now laid to temblor | The Japan Times Online
- Tepco disclosure said lacking from get-go | The Japan Times Online OpEd News
- Tomgram: Michael Klare, The Energy Landscape of 2041
- Why Any Thinking Person Should Question the NRC
- Breaching Gaza's Siege Update
- GreenChoice Bank - Great Alternative to Megabanks
- Israel Toughening Conditions for Palestinian Detainees
- Coverups concerning former Republican Senator Chuck Hagel
- Whom Does The Law Serve?
- Spirits of Justice Going to Gaza
- Proud to Be a Vermonter
- CELL PHONES ARE ONLY PART OF MODERN RISKS

- Atom

- Calitics

- Defective By Design

- Electronic Frontier Foundation

- Huffington Post

- IndyBay

- Online Journalism Tools

- Peace page

- The Left Coaster

- Transnationale

- WMNF Radio

- Culture Change

- Richard Register

- Transit Monger

Energy

- Alt Energy
- Amazingdrx
- Cal Energy Circuit
- Cost of Energy

- Energista
- Energy Alternatives
- Energy Conversation
- Energy Smart
- Freedom Plan
- George Monbiot
- Green Energy Now
- Green Energy TV
- Natvie Energy

- Power Circle
- Renewable Energy Law
- Solar Direct
- Stranded Wind
- Support Alternative Energy
- The Energy Blog
- The Oil Drum
- Watthead

Safety

- AIIA
- EarthJustice
- Eco Geek
- EcoTotality
- Grist Mill

- IEN

- Sustainablog

Security

- Chernobyl Videos

- CRÃ‰DIT ATOMIQUE

- Global Warming

- Green Nuclear Butterfuly

- MySpace: Energy Net

- No Nukes

- Nuclear Free Abalone

- Nuclear Videos

- Nuclear? No Thanks

- Safe Energy Activist

- Say No to Nuclear

- Shut Down Yucca Mt.

- Solar Not Nuclear

- Stop Uranium Wars!

- U.S. Reactors

- Voter

Archives Select Month June 2011

April 2011
March 2011
January 2011
June 2010
May 2010

April 2010
March 2010
February 2010
January 2010
December 2009

November 2009
October 2009
September 2009
August 2009
July 2009

June 2009
May 2009
April 2009
March 2009
February 2009

January 2009
December 2008
November 2008
October 2008
September 2008

August 2008
July 2008
June 2008
May 2008
April 2008

March 2008
February 2008
January 2008
December 2007
November 2007

October 2007
September 2007
August 2007
July 2007
June 2007

May 2007
April 2007
March 2007
February 2007
January 2007

July 2006
April 2006
March 2006

Publication Note In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107 this material is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for non-profit research and educational purposes only.

Meta

- Log in

- Entries RSS

- Comments RSS

- WordPress.org

© 2011 - The Energy Net

Proudly powered by WordPress.
2010 Weaver by WPWeaver.info

The Energy NetLog In

Visit

- Random Member

Random Group

* * * * *

The above article by Roger Herried originally appeared on Energy-Net.org, the home of the anti-nuke Abalone Alliance's archive.

Further reading:

Japan Nuclear Reactor Disaster | Meltdown News, Video, and Live feed