Citizens’ Initiative to Expand Radiological Monitoring in New Hampshire

Please support efforts for enhanced safety in Seabrook’s Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ)

Why Monitor: Seabrook Station nuclear power plant in coastal New Hampshire has been relicensed to 2050, yet faces an array of safety concerns relative to degraded concrete and the storage of nuclear waste onsite. Given these concerns, real-time radiological monitoring in the communities surrounding Seabrook is now more important than ever.

History of Radiological Monitoring in Massachusetts: C-10 Research and Education Foundation, Inc. (C-10) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect public health and the environment surrounding the Seabrook Station. C-10’s core service is to operate a field monitoring network to measure radiological emissions surrounding the plant, which they have done under contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1993, with bipartisan support. C-10 also advocates on safety concerns at Seabrook, is a partner to government agencies, and an educational resource for the public.

Need for Monitoring in New Hampshire: C-10 maintains three privately-funded sites in N.H., since the state has never invested in real-time monitoring. The state legislature recently considered legislation to expand radiological monitoring in the 17 communities within the plant’s 10-mile emergency planning zone. So far those bills have not been adopted by either the House or the Senate.

Let’s Not Wait for the N.H. Legislature to Act: Whether you support nuclear energy or you oppose it, we can all agree that having adequate and modern monitoring equipment provides a level of safety and security that we should demand. The current monitoring technology in use in the N.H. EPZ is inadequate, originating from the 1960s or earlier. We deserve 21st century technology, providing the highest level of safety. The state and Seabrook owner NextEra should support such efforts. However, while we wait for action on their part, a number of N.H. citizens have joined forces to raise funds to enable real-time radiological monitoring.

Old Versus New Radiological Monitoring: Currently, aside from C-10’s sites, the only real-time monitoring on the seacoast occurs on the property of Seabrook Station and at two federally-funded locations—one in Concord, one in Portsmouth. Outside the fence, Seabrook owner NextEra Energy maintains passive data collectors on utility poles known as “TLDs,” used to measure cumulative radiation. However, these film strips are only removed and analyzed every 90 days to determine—after the fact—whether the area had been exposed to excessive radiation levels.

The C-10 monitoring system, on the other hand, provides real-time monitoring of beta and gamma radiation as well as wind speed and direction. This system provides almost-immediate detection of any excessive radiation levels; information that could help save lives in the event of an unplanned radiological release.

Citizens Fundraising Effort for Monitoring in New Hampshire: A group of N.H. residents has launched an effort to raise funds from individual donors, municipalities and non-profits to expand the C-10 system in New Hampshire. They are not waiting for the State to act to increase safety for Seabrook’s neighbors. The estimated 2-year cost to launch this effort is $100,000, with a first-year requirement of $60,000. We are confident that we can raise this amount from the residents of the 17 N.H. towns as well as municipalities and organizations. As of May 2019, our group has raised over $34,000 in pledges. We need your support.

Will you join us? To learn more, make a pledge or to get involved in the Citizens Initiative, please contact: State Rep. Peter Somssich at 603-436-5221, or staterep27@myfairpoint.net, or visit www.C-10.org.