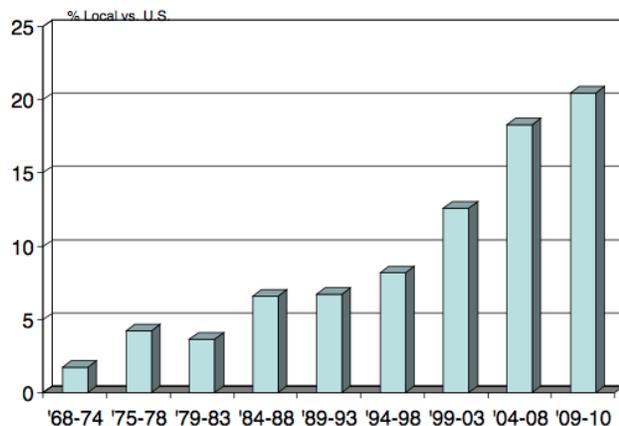


BEST/MATRR

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REPORT REVEALS 21% HIGHER DEATH RATES NEAR BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

MORTALITY RATE, ALL CAUSES
7 Alabama Counties Downwind of Browns Ferry vs. U.S.
1968-2010



The results of a detailed investigation reveal residents living near or downwind of Browns Ferry are at greater risk for cancer and death than average U.S. communities. The study found potential links between radioactive emissions from the aging Browns Ferry Plant and adverse health effects in seven counties near and downwind of the plant.

Findings in the report:

- Infant mortality in the seven proximate/downwind counties is 21.6% above the U.S. rate, a steady increase from the early 1990s, when it was below the U.S. rate. The excess is even higher for Hispanics (40.3%) and for whites (32.6%).
- Before operations began at Browns Ferry in the 1970s, the local death rate was 1.7% above the U.S., but the gap has steadily risen to a 2010 rate of 20.5% vs. the U.S.
- Local mortality rates in the seven counties are especially high for young people. The rate for young persons who died at age 0-24 was 27.4%, and the rate for adults aged 25-44 was 25.7% higher than average U.S. communities.
- Of the 10 Alabama counties with the highest incidences of thyroid cancer, five (5) are among the seven proximate/downwind counties (Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Lawrence, Limestone, DeKalb and Jackson). Radioactive iodine produced by a nuclear power plant (or a bomb) is considered a direct link cause of thyroid cancer.
- Local citizen group, BEST, has monitored and recorded radiation levels from 2 to 40 times greater than background levels downwind and downriver from Browns Ferry, with only near-background readings upwind and upriver.

“We find it hard to believe the mantra from the nuclear industry that there is no need to worry about radiation exposure, even though numerous studies tell a different story, “ says BEST project manager Garry Morgan. “We couldn’t get any real-time information about radiation emissions from TVA,” he added, “so we decided to take our own measurements.”

The group established 50 monitoring sites around Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Background levels of radiation were first determined, then counts per minute of alpha, beta, gamma, and X-ray radiation were recorded in the air, water, and land using protocols from the EPA and Department of Homeland Security. The highest levels of radiation were detected in Scottsboro, 70 miles downwind of the Browns Ferry site.

BEST/MATRR commissioned epidemiologist Joseph Mangano, MPH, MBA, Director Radiation & Public Health Project, to do a preliminary report. Mangano analyzed national and local records, compiling data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute, as well as NRC and TVA records. He also made a preliminary analysis of the data collected by the citizen team for the report.

“The measurements from the collection sites taken by the BEST radiation monitoring team, coupled with data before and during Browns Ferry Nuclear reactor operations, show a troubling pattern of increased morbidity, mortality, and incidences of cancer for those living downwind from Browns Ferry, especially for infants,” said Mangano.

As of 2010, Browns Ferry maintains 1,932 metric tons of radioactive waste on site, the 2nd largest of 71 U.S. nuclear plants; and the amount of radioactivity (over 314 million curies), the 5th highest in the U.S., is equivalent to several times that released by the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown, and hundreds of times more than releases from the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

(BEST/MATRR)

Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team / Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation

The full report may be downloaded at www.MATRR.org.