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Missouri River Flooding

KETV NewsWatch 7 and KETV.com have been working to deliver as much information about this big story. The links below should help our users better understand the enormity of the flooding.

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OPPD Officials Insist Nuke Plant Secure From Flood

Media Given Tour Of Flooded Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station

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Managers of the Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station conducted a tour of the plant surrounded by Missouri River floodwaters on Monday.

OPPD officials insist the reactor, which has been shut down for two months, is safe and they said they are doing everything they can to keep it that way.

"We are confident all our equipment will perform as designed," said plant manager Tim Nellenbach.

Water surrounds the entire facility in Washington County. In order to get from building to building, workers have built catwalks above the roads, which are now covered with several feet of water.



"We're constantly monitoring the pumps," said Nellenbach. "Even if the pumps were to be shut off, with the river at its current level, the things inside would still be operable."

Temporary berms encircle the buildings at the plant and diesel generators, with two weeks of fuel, are ready should the facility lose power.

[Images: Nuclear Plant Surrounded By Water](#)

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Officials said an aqua-berm was punctured on Sunday when a piece of heavy equipment accidentally ran into it. Workers at the plant said the berm was not vital in their flood control plan.



TV monitors at the plant show the reactor and spent fuel is safe.

Plant managers said the reactor, its supporting infrastructure and spent fuel rods are all safe from the flooding.

"The plant is safe," said OPPD's chief nuclear officer, David Bannister. "It will continue to be safe throughout the duration of the natural disaster."

Some critics have brought up the disaster at Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant. OPPD officials dismiss any comparison between the two situations.

"There's virtually no likelihood of anything like Fukushima happening here," said Nellenbach.

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