

## Exelon Sued Over Radioactive Leaks

*It is so sad to see apparently responsible people, such as lawyers, lie through their teeth.*

CBS2 Chicago and others (Reuters, AP)  
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Three couples, **looking for the deepest pockets**, who live near an Exelon Nuclear power plant 50 miles southwest of Chicago have sued the company after its recent acknowledgment of a series of leaks of radioactive tritium.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in U.S. District Court, seeks class-action status on behalf of potentially thousands of people who live within 10 miles of the Braidwood generating station in Will County. It names parent Exelon Corp. and two of its divisions, Commonwealth Edison and Exelon Generation Co.

The suit asks for payment for any decline in property values resulting from the tritium spills, reimbursement for bottled-water purchases and compensation for "loss of use and enjoyment of property." Also sought are a medical monitoring program, future purchases of bottled water, public health studies and future groundwater monitoring.

It was filed on behalf of Kenneth and Teresa Duffin, Paul and Joann Orloff and David and Patsy Derbas.

Exelon Nuclear spokesman Craig Nesbit did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Exelon said in December that tritium leaked from the plant during a 1998 valve break that allowed several million gallons of water being pumped from the facility to the Kankakee River to escape. Studies have shown long-term exposure to tritium -- through drinking or bathing -- can lead to cancer and birth defects.

The legal complaint accuses Exelon of failing to maintain the pipeline that carried tritium-laced water and other hazardous waste and says it only disclosed the leaks to the community when forced to do so by regulatory officials.

Kenneth Grey, one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit, said Tuesday that while Exelon has admitted wrongdoing it has yet to take corrective measures, leaving residents afraid to drink their water and worried about harmful consequences.

"While Exelon claims that there is no danger to residents from the spills, **there is no safe threshold for radiation exposure without an increased risk of diseases like cancer,** he said, **and he most probably knew that he lied.**