

# Radiation Discussion

## TEPCO Confirms That Groundwater Radiation Is So Bad, Everyone Thought It Had To Be An Error

Joe Weisenthal | Apr. 1, 2011, 7:40 AM

Just out from [Kyodo Wire](#).

TEPCO is confirming that presence of radioactive iodine in groundwater below Fukushima is 10,000x the legal limit.

This number came out yesterday, but it was so high that there were some who [doubted the veracity of the number](#).

TEPCO has come out with false readings before, but nope, not this one. It is that high, and because it's hitting water, it's serious.

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/tepc-radiation-10000-times-legal-limit-2011-4#ixzz1INTFiOJg>

---

## FDA's Comparison of Radiation in Milk to Everyday Exposures Called 'Improper'

WASHINGTON - April 1 - A U.S. Food and Drug Administration statement regarding milk contaminated with radiation from Japan failed to accurately inform and educate the public, four watchdog groups and a former senior advisor in the U.S. Department of Energy said today, pointing to the fact that exposure to ingested iodine-131 is substantively different than everyday exposure to radiation in the environment. On March 30, in response to reports that radioactive iodine-131 has been found in milk in Washington state, FDA senior scientist Patricia Hansen said, "Radiation is all around us in our daily lives, and these findings are a miniscule amount compared to what people experience every day. For example, a person would be exposed to low levels of radiation on a round trip cross country flight, watching television, and even from construction materials."

This statement was called improper by experts at Beyond Nuclear, Food and Water Watch, Friends of the Earth and Nuclear Information and Resource Service, as well as by Robert Alvarez, former Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of

Energy during the Clinton Administration. Robert Alvarez, former Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Energy during the Clinton Administration, said: “No matter how small the dose might be, it is out of context to compare an exposure to a specific radioisotope that is released by a major nuclear accident with radiation exposures in everyday life. The FDA spokesperson should have informed the public that radioiodine provides a unique form of exposure in that it concentrates rapidly in dairy products and in the human thyroid. The dose received, based on official measurements, may be quite small, and pose an equally small risk. However, making a conclusion on the basis of one measurement is fragmentary at best and unscientific at worst. As the accident in Fukushima continues to unfold, the public should be provided with all measurements made of radioactive fallout from the Fukushima reactors to allow for independent analyses.” Damon Moglen, Director of the Climate and Energy Project at Friends of the Earth, said:

“This is an apples-to-oranges comparison that lacks integrity. There is a big difference between ingesting radioactive material that accumulates in the thyroid and sitting on an airplane. You can’t drink a TV or eat an airplane.”

Cindy Folkers, Radiation and Health Specialist at Beyond Nuclear, said:

“It is important to remember that regardless of exposure level, as the National Academies of Science have reported, there is no safe dose of radiation. Children and pregnant mothers are particularly at risk from low-dose, long-term internal exposure.”

Michael Mariotte, Executive Director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service, said:

“No mother should ever have to wonder if the milk she feeds her child might be harmful. Having worked on nuclear issues for 25 years, I know the difference between internal exposures and background radiation. But lots of people don’t. As the father of an 11-month old daughter, I’m personally furious at the government for this misleading information.”

Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food and Water Watch, said:

“FDA is doing a disservice to the public by comparing radiation released from a nuclear reactor accident to exposures from everyday life. FDA should be providing consumers with accurate information about risks and designing a program to try to protect the public from additional radiation exposures.” The joint FDA/EPA statement from March 30 is available here:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm249146.htm>

.....

Physicians for Global Survival has sent out a news release calling for more monitoring and closer tracking of health effects:

<http://pgs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/Monitoring-Radiation.pdf>

The release concludes: ...PGS is deeply concerned about the long-term health of populations exposed to radiation due to planned or accidental releases of radiation from Fukushima or domestic nuclear power plants.

I found this article from the European Greens both powerful and enlightening. It's long but important.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/busby03282011.html>

...Make no mistake, physicists are stupid. They make themselves stupid by a kind of religious belief in mathematical modelling....

...The health effects of the Chernobyl accident are massive and demonstrable. They have been studied by many research groups in Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine, in the USA, Greece, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan. The scientific peer reviewed literature is enormous. Hundreds of papers report the effects, increases in cancer and a range of other diseases. ...

...more than a million people have died between 1986 and 2004 as a direct result of Chernobyl. ...

...After Chernobyl, infant leukaemia was reported in 6 countries by 6 different groups, from Scotland, Greece, Wales, Germany, Belarus and the USA. The increases were only in children who had been in the womb at the time of the contamination: this specificity is rare in epidemiology. There is no other

explanation than Chernobyl. ...

...A milliSievert is one millijoule of energy diluted into one kilogram of tissue. As such it would not distinguish between warming yourself in front of a fire and eating a red hot coal. ...

...The IAEA and the World Health Organisation (WHO) signed an agreement in 1959 to remove all research into the issue from the doctors of the WHO, to the atom scientists, the physicists of the IAEA: this agreement is still in force. The UN organisations do not refer to, or cite any scientific study, which shows their statements on Chernobyl to be false. There is a huge gap between the picture painted by the UN, the IAEA, the ICRP and the real world. ...

...I have acted as an expert witness in over 40 cases involving radiation and health. These include cases where Nuclear Test veterans are suing the UK government for exposures at the test sites that have caused cancer, they include cases involving nuclear pollution, work exposures and exposures to depleted uranium weapons fallout. And these cases are all being won. All of them. Because in court with a judge and a jury, people like Wade Allison and George Monbiot would not last 2 minutes. Because in court you rely on evidence. Not bullshitting. ...

...I believe that these phoney experts like Wade Allison and George Monbiot are criminally irresponsible, since their advice will lead to millions of deaths....

...the late Professor John Gofman, a senior figure in the US Atomic Energy Commission until he saw what was happening and resigned, famously said: "*the nuclear industry is waging a war against humanity.*" This war has now entered an endgame which will decide the survival of the human race. Not from sudden nuclear war. But from the on-going

.....  
Published on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 by [CommonDreams.org](http://CommonDreams.org)

## **Spewing from Meltdowns: Dangerous Plumes of Disinformation**

by John LaForge

Well-reported plumes of radiation have spread to California and beyond from the wrecked six-reactor complex at Fukushima, Japan. What's worse in terms of citizen awareness, clouds of disinformation are circling even faster.

The consequences of Japan's *disaster cubed* — earthquakes, a tsunami and spewing radiation — can hardly be exaggerated, with over 22,000 people reportedly killed or missing, widespread contamination by long-lasting isotopes like cesium, and an early estimate of \$250 billion in damages.

Yet within the blizzard of radiation being dispersed uncontrollably, day after day, from Japan's wrecked reactors and their dry pools of burning-hot waste fuel, it's important to note the storm of reassuring but erroneous lullabies about "safe," "harmless" and "less than dangerous" exposures.

There is no level of radiation exposure, no matter how small, that is harmless. Every federal agency that regulates radioactive pollution agrees. ...

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/03/23-1> ng and incremental nuclear war which began with the releases to the biosphere in the 1960s of all the atmospheric test fallout, and which has continued inexorably since then through Windscale, Kyshtym, 3-Mile Island, Chernobyl, Hanford, Sellafield, La Hague, Iraq and now Fukushima, accompanied by parallel increases in cancer rates and fertility loss to the human race. ...

<http://www.counterpunch.org/busby03282011.html>

--

.....

CUSJ friends,

After reading the post from a Kairos friend and the subsequent responses from Christine and Frances, I went to a trusted wise woman who has been working on the nuclear issue for years. Below is her response to me (and you). I hope that CUSJ will continue to support the anti-nuclear position despite the misinformation and propaganda that is well written and convincing to those who believe that all that nuclear has pros and cons.

Love to you all,  
Sharon in NB

Sharon, relatives, I understand the problem of conflicting and confusing information, my main reason for deciding to write on public health and nuclear disaster as my own first response to the nuclear disaster in Japan. <http://iicph.org/nuclear-disasters-and-environmental-health> The answers are not coming from journalists, governments or the nuclear industry who refuse to clearly state that nuclear power is inherently a global safety and security threat that has already injured the planet. The fact is that whether it is chronic small emissions, irresponsible materials handling, social upheaval, human, technical, natural or other disaster at a nuclear facility anywhere on Earth, it is a global event affecting the air, water, soil, the food market, and/or the metals market, etc. Regarding the article below, see this message for Japan from a Chernobyl worker ("liquidator"): 'Run Away as Quickly as Possible' <http://www.aolnews.com/2011/03/22/chernobyl-cleanup-survivors-message-for-japan-run-away-as-qui/> Our Lepreau Decommissioning Caucus already has copies of Chernobyl Heart - I suggest that it be shared with the Unitarian church members and that independent, qualified medical practitioners be consulted. Perhaps they would benefit from a presentation examining the health effects of ionizing radiation. The nuclear lobby is spinning words to have us believe that "nuclear power is an almost trivial source of radiation, dwarfed by natural variations in other sources of radiation". I can understand its terrible business position. The industry is in decline in building of new installations with uncontrollable costs, an ageing and dwindling work force and by-products that no one wants to buy. Since the Japan disaster, it may well be completely eliminated. They have a big problem, as did the manufacturers of DDT. I believe they will say anything to keep going, including lie and place lives at risk. Here's some evidence of nuclear industry decline from Right Livelihood Award recipient Mycle Schneider, an energy consultant, nuclear analyst, and lead author of The World Nuclear Industry Status Reports. "Status and Trends of the World Nuclear Industry" <http://carnegieendowment.org/files/mycle-schneider-slides.pdf> No doubt the good churchgoers will be interested that "nuclear damage for homeowners' policies are typically excluded from coverage", outlined in this article: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-03-22/nuclear-fallout-comes-with-aura-of-arrogance-mycle-schneider.html> Nuclear is a poor business investment despite expensive public relations campaigns that trivialise the terrible risks and impacts. Pursuing continuation of nuclear power is not only bad for economies, it is a crime against the biosphere and present and future generations. All My Relations, Willi.....

.....

Hi CUSJers;

Sorry for the barrage of emails. Officials and well-meaning but naive writers are pushing out tons of disinformation and misinformation. Some CUSJers might be familiar with a book I co-edited, titled *Peace: A Dream Unfolding* (Sierra Club Books 1986). I did most of the selection in the middle section, The Nightmare of the Nuclear Holocaust. So I've been covering this beat for decades. A nuclear power plant is not just an extremely expensive way to boil water -- which, after 40 years, leaves the area around it uninhabitable forever -- each power plant is also a slow motion atom bomb.

IMO, comparing Fukushima releases to background radiation is like marking the side of the boat to show how deep the water is. Unfortunately, my prediction is that the Fukushima power plants are going to give new depth to the term "catastrophic".

The most efficient, environmentally friendly energy sources are very local, such as solar panels on the roof, or neighbourhood windmills. Huge scale power plants that have to send electricity through hundreds of miles of power lines lose up to 2/3 of their power before anyone can plug into it. Moreover, there are serious oversights in any carbon analysis that looks only at the power plants in operation and not at the entire lifecycle (as it's called) of mining, refining, shipping and disposing of uranium. Finally, physicists are not doctors; health effects simply are not part of their equations. So their reassurances are empty.

NO amount of added radiation is safe for living beings. ALL radiation travels globally. Wonder why cancer rates have risen drastically in the atomic age, and fertility rates have dropped? Thank the profit motive in pushing enriched uranium, brought to us mainly by the weapons manufacturers. I think that CUSJ would support a moratorium on manufacturing weapons, especially since the market is saturated. Let's support a moratorium on nuclear power plants.

sigh, Penney Kome

Thanks for this Penney.

In hearing news about Fukushima's unfolding disaster, I wonder when radiation will be announced as a new food group.

Decades ago when I was working on editing a collection of writings called *Up and Doing: Canadian Women and Peace*, I came to know Dr. Rosalie Bertell who studied the effects of radiation. Her website is here:

<http://www.rosalieberhell.net/index.shtml>

She is also listed on the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility where there is much research archived here:

[http://www.ccnr.org/bertell\\_bio.html](http://www.ccnr.org/bertell_bio.html)

On health and environmental costs of war:

<http://www.rosalieberhell.net/militarism.htm>

On the International Institute of Concern for Public Health (IICPH) established 27 years ago by Rosalie Bertell, Ursula Franklin and others.

[International Institute of Concern for Public Health](http://www.iicph.org/)

Best, Janice Williamson