



Update on Fukushima: Discovery of Plutonium Leakage and Highly Radioactive



Hi, I'm Arnie Gundersen from Fairewinds Associates. It's Tuesday, March 29th, 2011.

Several things in the news have come up in the last several days that I want to share my impressions [about] with you. They are: the fact that plutonium has been discovered at the Fukushima site; the second, that large quantities of very radioactive water have been discovered on site; and the last is [that] I wanted to give you my assessment of the nuclear cores in units one, two and three.

First, the plutonium. Plutonium has been found on five different locations on site. In an earlier video I put together, plutonium is a difficult isotope to detect because it doesn't give off a gamma ray, it gives off an alpha particle, and that's not picked up by the typical gamma counters. That, plus the high background on the site, makes it very difficult to find in soil samples. Five soil samples have turned up plutonium. If there's five, there's more concern for me. Plutonium got its name from Pluto, the god of hell, and it's one of the nastiest isotopes that mankind has ever created. This is a gram. The dollar bill is 1/100th of a gram. Well, if you cut that into a million pieces, you have a microgram, smaller than the width of a human hair. One microgram can cause a lethal cancer from plutonium.