Hi, I'm Arnie Gundersen of Fairewinds Associates, and it's Wednesday, April 6th.

In my previous update I talked about the possibility of an inadvertent critical Fukushima [Unit] 1. That was based on four things. It was based on a neutron beam detected thirteen times; it was based on the presence of chlorine-38; it was based on iodine-131 being detected; and it was based on iodine-131 and iodine-132 being detected. So update to you, TEPCO, Tokyo Electric, has pulled the report upon which I based my tellurium data, they say, is no longer accurate. When you're in a mode like Tokyo Electric would hope that the information you're using is accurate. That's a serious concern: information is being used in decision making at TEPCO. This isn't the only time; there are these instances. When the neutron beam came out, TEPCO denied that despite the fact that was from their own spokesman. There was a report of incredibly high radioactive levels and TEPCO denied that and lowered the report to an amount that was still incredibly high, hundred times lower. And Dr. Richard Lahey, a General Electric scientist who quoted [as saying] that Unit 2 had had a meltdown. Again, TEPCO denied that. Concerned about, one, the reliability of information coming out of TEPCO, but information that's happening in private at TEPCO is not being relayed to the public.
It’s not just TEPCO that this is occurring with. Today the New York Times ran a report circulated within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] dating back to February 18, 2011, where the NRC staff has identified significant problems and dangers at Fukushima; basic issues that the public was not being made aware of, including the fact that there’s an awful lot of mud inside this reactor. Now, we’ve been talking about that for a week or more because of the seawater injected into the reactor. It’s not coming out, and it’s building up inside. The NRC has informed about this, but not really sharing it with the general public. They’re concerned that the weight of this water in it, might make it unstable in the case of an earthquake. They’re concerned that there’s a risk of a criticality like we talked about last time might occur. They’re also concerned about another explosion occurring. And finally, they’re also concerned that the tellurium, which likely was ejected from the fuel pools during the explosions. The NRC believes the plutonium was ejected several miles away from the reactor, and is also onsite and being bulldozed into the soil. Well, all of this is happening inside the NRC; they’re telling you and I, that the situation is difficult, but under control.

It’s not just the NRC that’s saying this, it’s [also] large nuclear corporations, including Areva, which is a French nuclear conglomerate, probably one of the largest in the world. A report in the New York Times on March 23rd: there was an invitation-only meeting of university level on the 21st of March, this is ten days after the accident, where Areva presented pretty significant problems that the public was not being made aware of. We’ve been told of the Areva report that was presented there. Now, the Areva report is pretty fact there’s information in it that’s wrong. I will, next time, be discussing the Areva report that actually make the situation worse. The Areva report talks about known that the nuclear fuel in all three reactors reached five thousand degrees Celsius. That’s beyond the melting point of stainless steel, and beyond the zircalloy which means that a disintegration of the core is pretty obvious. The Areva report about Unit 2 in particular and identifies that the core, [correction] that the core was breached by a hydrogen explosion. We look at Units 1, 3 and 4 and see the roofs [Unit] 2 looks pretty good. What happened at Unit 2, though, was that the hydrogen somehow ignited. It’s unknown why. Sort of like a sneeze with your nose close to pop your eardrums. Well, that’s what happened at Unit 2, but it likely breached the containment. Areva and the nuclear industry know that, and really haven’t been sharing it with us.

The other thing that the Areva report talks about is that they recommend control of products out to fifty kilometers (50 km). That’s about thirty miles (30 mi.) away from the reactor. This means that they believe that radiation has exceeded well beyond what the emergency zone is, and that both crops and dairy products may be contaminated.

Areva also spends a lot of time talking about Unit 4. That’s the one that has no fuel, but exploded anyway. They basically said that this was a core melt in fresh air. The core melted on Unit 4, Areva believes, is that the fuel pool cracked from the earthquake and now, with no water, a zircalloy-hydrogen reaction was inevitable.

The last thing that the Areva report notices is that, this was, probably the largest release from Unit 4 because there’s no containment. And, they basically say that all of the plutonium can be volatilized.

Finally, industry insiders who are aware of the Areva presentation have told me that the person who presented the presentation said this, it’s almost an exact quote: “Clearly, we are one of the greatest disasters in modern time.” Well, in the private meetings Areva
this is a serious issue, but in public the nuclear renaissance continues to move for
the nuclear industry and within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I will update you on this Areva report and identify the problems within it in my ne
but I wanted to let you know that I will be trying to filter out, from all of these s
information to pass on to you in the future.

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