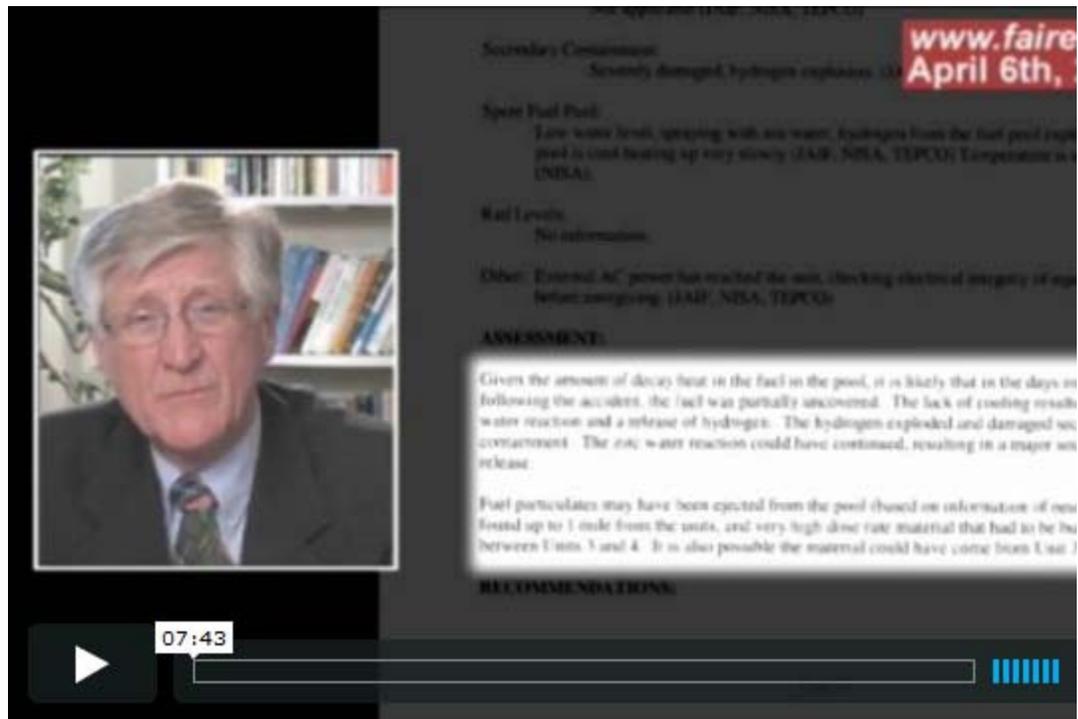




## Closing Ranks: The NRC, the Nuclear Industry, and TEPCO are Limiting the Flo



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 detected thirteen times; it was based on the presence of chlorine-38; it was based on being detected; and it was based on iodine-131 and [iodine]-132 being detected. Since my 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; in these instances. When the neutron beam came out, TEPCO denied that despite the quote was from their own spokesman. There was a report of incredibly high radiation and TEPCO denied that and lowered the report [to an amount that was] still increased hundred times lower. And Dr. Richard Lahey, a General Electric scientist of great concern quoted [as saying] that Unit 2 had had a meltdown. Again, TEPCO denied that. I'm concerned about, one, the reliability of information coming out of TEPCO, but also 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 that circulated within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] dating back to 1979. The NRC staff has identified significant problems and dangers at Fukushima; but they're still out of the woods yet. The problems that the staff is aware of, but not really sharing with the general public, include 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 that was injected into the reactor. It's not coming out, and it's building up inside. The NRC has talked about that too, they just didn't tell you and I. They're concerned that the weight of all this water in it, might make it unstable in the case of an earthquake. They're concerned that a loss of coolant accident like we talked about last time might occur. They're also concerned about a second explosion being recreated and another explosion occurring. And finally, they're also concerned about plutonium which likely was ejected from the fuel pools during the explosions. The NRC believes that plutonium was ejected several miles away from the reactor, and is also onsite and has been 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. As reported in the New York Times on March 23rd: there was an invitation-only meeting at Columbia University on the 21st of March, this is ten days after the accident, where Areva presented a report on pretty significant problems that the public was not being made aware of. We've been holding of the Areva report that was presented there. Now, the Areva report is pretty good, but the fact there's information in it that's wrong. I will, next time, be discussing [the] problems in the Areva report that actually make the situation worse. The Areva report talks about the fact 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 melting point of zircalloy which means that a disintegration of the core is pretty obvious. The Areva report talks 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 gas then 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 radioactive products out to fifty kilometers (50 km). That's about thirty miles (30 mi.) away from the reactor. That 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 the water didn't boil out of Unit 4 like we've been led to believe. There was a crack 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 of radiation from Unit 4 because there's no containment. And, they basically say that all of the radiation can be volatilized.

Finally, industry insiders who are aware of the Areva presentation have told me that one of the people who presented the presentation said this, it's almost an exact quote: "Clearly, we are looking at 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 forward 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 next report but I wanted to let you know that I will be trying to filter out, from all of these sources information to pass on to you in the future.

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