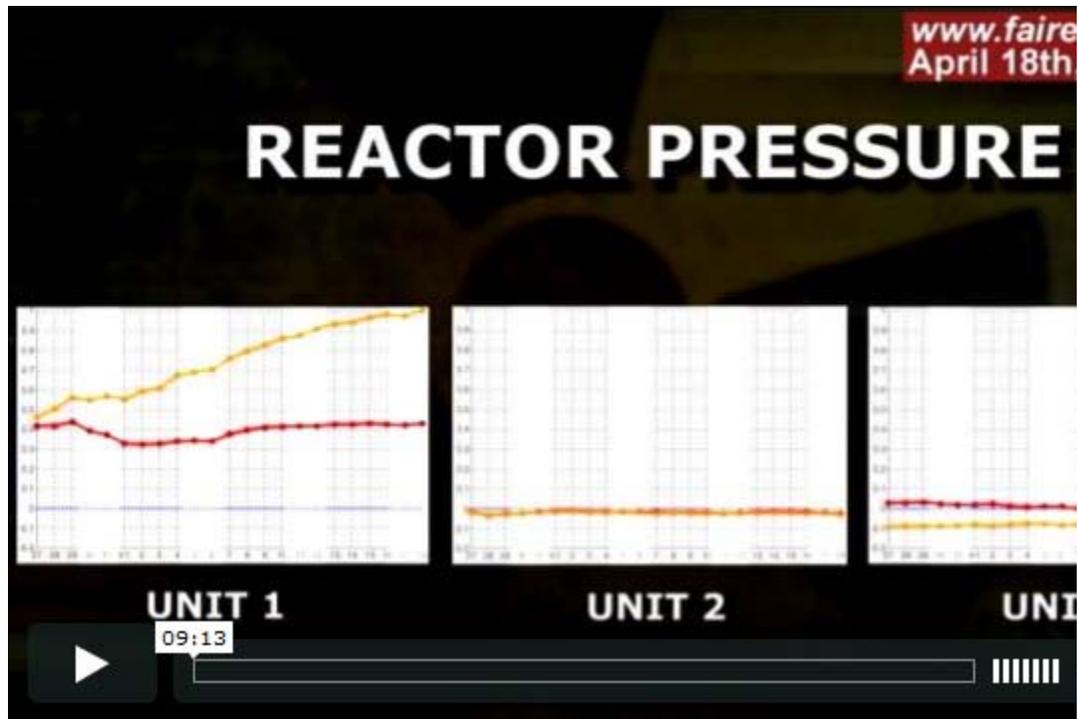




Gundersen Discusses Current Condition of Reactors, TEPCO Claim of "No Fission" of Radiation Monitoring in Fish



Hi, I'm Arnie Gundersen from Fairewinds, and it's Monday, April 18th. I've been away from City for several days on business, and I wanted to tell you: it's nice to be back.

I appreciate the emails we've been receiving, both the ones saying keep it up, but I've also gotten some good technical information from some of you as well, and I really appreciate that.

I wanted to talk about three things. The first is the condition of reactors 1, 2, and 3, and the condition of the fuel pool in Unit 4. The third is the monitoring of [radioactivity in the environment].

The first, the condition of reactors 1, 2, and 3, is actually as a result of several of you. I have a really great link about the reactor parameters as measured by TEPCO [Tokyo Electric Power Company]. The first graph I want to look at is the pressure inside the reactor. Unit 1 is on the left, Unit 2 is in the middle, and Unit 3 is on the right. If you look at those, then you'll see that the pressure inside of Unit 2 and inside of Unit 3 is relatively low. That's a good thing. That shows that those units are under no stress. There is pressure, relatively high, one-hundred and fifty psi inside of Unit 1 and I don't know why. I'll have to get back to you on that. But let's move to the next slide, which begins to make this a little bit curious. The next graph is Unit 1,

but it's the temperature inside the reactors. If you look at Unit 3, the temperature is which is really great. Very low pressure, very low temperature; that's basically about what you could hope for right now. But look at Unit 2. Unit 2 shows three hundred degrees Fahrenheit, or about one-hundred and fifty on the Centigrade scale (150 degrees Celsius). That can't happen if it's water. In thermodynamics, there's this thing called the "critical point" of water at room pressure, which is zero [PSI] (0 lbs/Sq. in.) on these charts, boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit and twelve (212 degrees F). You can't have water or steam at three-hundred degrees Fahrenheit (300 degrees F) when there's no extra pressure put on it. What does that tell me that what they're measuring in Unit 2 is not water or steam at all, it's hot air or hot steam; that's a problem. It tells me that Unit 2 is not being cooled. Now, if you look at Unit 3, the temperatures are higher still, but the pressure in Unit 1, going back to the other graph, is high enough to have water inside it, and [therefore] still be water cooled, but Unit 2 cannot. No one has talked about it before, that Unit 2 has a hole in the bottom of it, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised that the pressure is zero, but we should be very concerned that we're exhausting hot steam from the top of that reactor.

The last graph is a series, again, [of] Unit 1, 2, and 3, of the containment pressure inside the reactor, and that shows that, basically, Unit 1 and Unit 3 have significant containment pressure, and Unit 2 has no containment pressure. If you look at Unit 1, and 2, and 3, there are lines on 1 and 3, and there's only one on Unit 2. That means there's no pressure inside the containment. We know that to be true because there's evidence of an explosion; that's the leak. So, this graph clearly shows that Unit 2's containment is leaking. The previous graphs show that Unit 2 is not getting water inside the core. I don't really think that the media has addressed that: that Unit 2 is the cause of all of this radioactive pollution [going] into the ocean because its containment doesn't have integrity, and its reactor doesn't have integrity; whatever water is going in the top is going out the bottom, through the containment into the surrounding soils. It's the biggest concern. Unit 3 seems to be out of the woods; Unit 2 is somewhere in between.

Now I want to talk to you about the Unit 4 fuel pool. On Friday, TEPCO had a press conference and said they'd measured the water in the pool and they found that a little tiny cubic centimeter (about the size of a sugar cube) had two-hundred and fifty disintegrations per second (250 Bq) of iodine-131. I remember that iodine is one of those fission products that break up. I believe that the presence of iodine in a pool, it's an indication that a fission reaction has occurred. It can't have occurred because Unit 4 has been shut down for five months – unless a reaction occurred as a result of the accident. I think TEPCO anticipated my argument, and that's not what happened. The iodine fell from the sky from the explosion in Unit 4. [That's] called "iodine deposition." Well, let's take TEPCO at its word. A little box, that has two-hundred and fifty disintegrations per second now (250 Bq), but the accident occurred ten days ago. So, that's four half-lives. If it's two-hundred and fifty (250 Bq) now, it was five hundred (500 Bq) eight days ago, one thousand (1,000 Bq) eight days before that, and two thousand (2,000 Bq) eight days before that. So, that little box, when these plants were exploded, had two thousand disintegrations per second (2,000 Bq). That's two thousand disintegrations per second by a centimeter by a centimeter by a centimeter. If we look at a cubic meter, there's one thousand by a hundred by a hundred of those little boxes, or a million (1,000,000) of those boxes, in a cubic meter. If we multiply that two-thousand (2,000 Bq) by a million, we get two thousand megabecquerels in a cubic meter (2,000 MBq/sq. m, or 2,000,000,000 Bq). If we take that pool, this is the last piece of math here, that pool is fifteen meters deep (15 meters), so those boxes stacked fifteen high. So we take the two-thousand megabecquerels times fifteen, we get thirty-thousand megabecquerels (30,000 MBq) in that pool. TEPCO at its word, all of that fell from the top. That's a square meter. What that means is that the iodine deposition on a square meter was thirty-thousand megabecquerels (30,000 MBq). That's pushing the numbers at Chernobyl. So, if we take TEPCO at its word, they have had significant level releases on the other units which caused the iodine to fall on Unit 4.

There's two other pieces of that, though. Iodine is a gas, and I don't know how a gas gets absorbed into a fuel pool. There's probably one factor there, too. The last piece is, if we take TEPCO at its word that the iodine was released from Unit 1, Unit 1 exploded first; Unit 2 exploded next, [correction] Unit 3 exploded next, and Unit 4 exploded third. Unit 4 still had its roof on during all of those explosions, so it's not iodine deposition getting into the fuel pool as a result of the explosions in Units 1, 2, and 3. If we take TEPCO at its word they're claiming, basically, a Chernobyl-level release. It could be that, or it could be that the fuel pool had a self-sustaining chain reaction.

The last thing I wanted to talk about was fish. Over the weekend, the FDA [United States Food and Drug Administration] announced [that] it would not be monitoring fish on the West Coast. I don't think that's a good idea. If there's anything you can do as a result of these announcements, it's to contact your congressperson and let them know that we citizens here, and we deserve to have our fish monitored." I don't think we'll find a solution, but over the next year as the little fish get eaten by bigger fish, get eaten by bigger fish, as the plume spreads, we might. It just seems to be a prudent health risk that can be avoided by monitoring.

Thank you, and thank for everyone for their emails, and for those of you who pushed the button, I also appreciate it. I'll get back to you as soon as I have other information. Thanks.

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