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**From:** sovereig@rodimusprime.fastsecurehost.com on behalf of  
editor@sovereignindependent.ie  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 1:22 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Auto Response - plume map

Hi eliot brenner <[eliot.brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:eliot.brenner@nrc.gov)> and Thank You for your email.

We receive a lot of correspondence everyday and we try our best to reply as soon as possible but it takes a huge amount of time to get through it all. Please have patience with us and we will respond to your email as soon as we can.

Regards,

The Sovereign Independent Team

BU/887

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**From:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FYI: Greenwire on CSPAN Washington Journal, March 26, 9:15 am

For your consideration - ILC

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**From:** Janbergs, Holly **On Behalf Of** OPA Resource  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:05 AM  
**To:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** FW: Greenwire on CSPAN Washington Journal, March 26, 9:15 am

Unsure if you want to handle

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**From:** Birla, Sushil  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:44 PM  
**To:** OPA Resource  
**Subject:** Greenwire on CSPAN Washington Journal, March 26, 9:15 am

John McArdle, Greenwire, Reporter, was an invited guest on the CSPAN Washington Journal program this morning. In his introduction, he spoke about the Japan nuclear power plants (NPPs) issue and mentioned Chairman Jaczko a number of times, and posed a question why the DOE Secretary was not as prominent (implying he should take a more active role). John's introduction was followed by Q-A. People from all over the USA called in very specific questions about safety concerns and measures in the U.S. NPPs. In my opinion, the questions were much better thought out than the answers. The Q-A did not inspire confidence in assuring listeners of adequate safety.

The [http://www.eenews.net/eep/learn\\_more/about\\_Greenwire](http://www.eenews.net/eep/learn_more/about_Greenwire) page states, "Greenwire is relied on every day by the organizations that need to understand these issues, including: the White House, Congress, the federal agencies, foreign governments, financial institutions, major corporations and law firms, electric utilities, environmental groups, state governors and agencies, academics and lobbying and consulting firms."

If this statement is true, the NRC/OPA might wish to consider keeping Greenwire well-informed, e.g. the role of the NRC in such times, in comparison to the role of the DOE. From a review of the transcripts or playback of the video-recording, one could pick out the questions asked and construct appropriate answers. In this manner, learning about questions raised in various fora, a FAQ could be built up on the publicly accessible NRC web site.

Sushil Birla

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 12:04 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Eric  
**Cc:** Oesterle, Eric; Nguyen, Quynh; Nelson, Robert; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Good Morning, all;

(b)(5)

Scott

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**From:** Thomas, Eric  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 11:43 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Oesterle, Eric; Nguyen, Quynh; Nelson, Robert  
**Subject:** FW: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Scott,

(b)(5)

Thanks, Eric

Eric Thomas  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
NRR/DIRS/IOEB  
OWFN-7E24  
[eric.thomas@nrc.gov](mailto:eric.thomas@nrc.gov)  
301-415-6772 (office)  
(b)(6) (mobile)

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**From:** White, Bernard  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 10:42 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Eric  
**Subject:** FW: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Eric,

I just received what is supposed to be the final version this morning from OPA. Neither Steve Jones nor myself heard any more after Steve sent them the draft Saturday night.

Bernie

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**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:58 AM  
**To:** White, Bernard  
**Subject:** Fw: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Bu/889

Note Eliot's comments to me.

David McIntyre  
NRC Office of Public Affairs  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
301-415-8200 (office)  
Sent from my BlackBerry, which is wholly responsible for all typos.

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David; Hayden, Elizabeth; Anderson, Brian  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 28 09:45:55 2011  
**Subject:** FW: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Folks: I want to be sure everyone has this paper handy in case this issue breaks or the paper gets leaked out somewhere. I asked a followup question about the three-year reference in here for storing fuel, since normally we say five. This is the response I received:

Eliot, we checked on your question about the statement in the White House White paper on spent fuel storage that said dry cask storage allows spent fuel that has been cooled in the spent fuel pool at least 3 years to be surrounded by an inert gas inside a container called a cask.

The regulations only require spent fuel to have been cooled in a pool for one year before it could be moved to a cask. Bernie White of NMSS told us that the paper said 3 years because that is the shortest time a discharged fuel assembly has ever been approved for loading in a dry cask.

However, five years is the typical amount of time it takes a fuel assembly to cool down so it can be stored safely in a dry cask.

(David ... perhaps you can figure out why we would let fuel out at 3 years vs what is said in the last sentence???)

eliot

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**From:** Blount, Tom  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 3:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** McDermott, Brian  
**Subject:** FW: Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Eliot – This has been sent to the White House staff as requested. It has been fully vetted.

Tom Blount

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**From:** Blount, Tom  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 1:08 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Borchardt, Bill; Burns, Stephen  
**Cc:** Weber, Michael; Dyer, Jim  
**Subject:** Spent Fuel Storage Safety white paper revised

Here is the revised "final" version. It has Josh's comments incorporated. This is the version we expect to ship by 3pm, unless we hear otherwise from you.

Thank you for the expedited review....

Tom Blount  
ET Response Advisor – Dayshift

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**From:** ET05 Hoc  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 1:01 PM  
**To:** Blount, Tom  
**Subject:** 03-27-0900 spent fuel storage safety\_RST\_0327\_0900FINALVERSION.docx

## SPENT FUEL STORAGE SAFETY

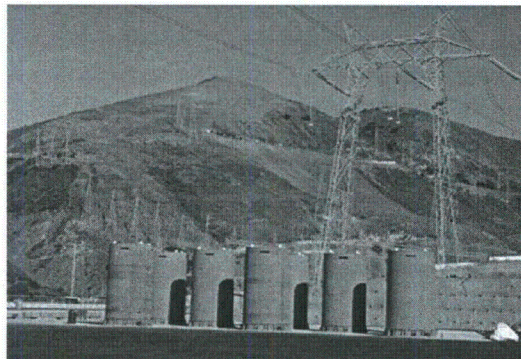
### Overview

Spent fuel is nuclear reactor fuel that has been used to generate power in the reactor. Immediately after discharge from the reactor during refueling, spent fuel must be stored wet in storage pools for at least three years until it is sufficiently cool to permit dry storage in casks. Interim storage of spent fuel in wet or dry storage systems is safe and presents low risk to the public. Both storage methods are robust designs that are manufactured to high quality standards, and are designed and built using numerous industry codes and standards. Therefore, NRC regulations permit either method to be used for interim storage of spent fuel. There is a significant experience base in the U.S. and abroad with the safe storage of spent fuel.

Since the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, the NRC staff has augmented the safety and security requirements for storage locations of nuclear materials including spent nuclear fuel. Evaluations and assessments performed by the NRC staff show that the likelihood of a physical attack on dry storage casks or spent fuel pools that would result in a significant radiological release is extremely low. Extensive security measures required by NRC protect against radiological sabotage or theft and diversion of radioactive material. The NRC has specific regulatory requirements for the physical protection of commercial spent fuel. In addition, NRC maintains a threat assessment capability that works in collaboration with federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

### Spent Fuel Storage

Dry storage is achieved by placement of the spent fuel in above-ground structures. Dry cask storage allows spent fuel that has already been cooled in the spent fuel pool for at least three years to be surrounded by an inert gas inside a container called a cask. The casks are typically steel cylinders that are either welded or bolted closed. The steel cylinder is typically 1-inch-thick steel, with a welded lid that is 8 to 10 inches of steel, a bottom flange that is 6 inches of steel, and provides a leak-tight containment of the spent fuel. The steel canister is then placed in a storage overpack that consists of 8 to 10 inches of steel or several feet of concrete (2 to 3 feet). The natural flow of air around the cask in the overpack provides adequate cooling for the spent fuel inside.



Currently there are 63 independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) licensees located at 57 facilities in the United States. There are over 1400 loaded storage casks in these facilities, mostly at active or decommissioned reactor sites.

Wet storage is achieved by the use of spent fuel pools. The spent fuel pool structures are constructed with thick reinforced concrete walls and floor slabs lined with seam-welded stainless steel plate (1/8 to 1/4 inch thick). Pool walls are about 4 to 5 feet thick, and the pool floor slabs

are about 4 to 6 ft thick. The typical pool dimensions are about 40 feet long, 35 feet wide and 40 feet deep, but pool lengths and widths vary widely because of varying design considerations.

In the United States there are 23 boiling water reactor (BWR) plants with Mark I containment designs similar to the Fukushima Daiichi Units 1-5, and eight Mark II containment designs similar to Fukushima Daiichi Unit 6. The spent fuel pool structures are located in the reactor building at an elevation several stories above the ground (about 50 to 60 feet above ground for the Mark I reactors). The remaining spent fuel pools at operating reactors are typically located with the bottom of the pool at or below plant grade level. The robust construction provides the potential for the structure to withstand events well beyond those considered in the original design.

### **Spent Fuel Storage Regulation**

The regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), including Appendix A, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," or 10 CFR Part 72, "Licensing requirements for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and reactor-related greater than Class C waste," contain design criteria for both wet and dry storage to ensure that fuel storage and handling systems provide adequate safety under anticipated operating and accident conditions.

The design criteria include requirements for: radiation shielding; confinement; residual heat removal capability consistent with its importance to safety; and maintaining the fuel in a subcritical configuration. Additional design criteria specify requirements for: protection against natural phenomena, such as seismic events, tornados, and flooding (tsunamis, hurricanes, seiches, and potential dam failures); protection against dynamic effects, such as flying debris resulting from equipment failure and drops of fuel storage and handling equipment resulting from either human error or equipment failure. Additionally, spent fuel storage facilities are evaluated against hazards to the storage site from nearby activities.

### **Inspections and Oversight**

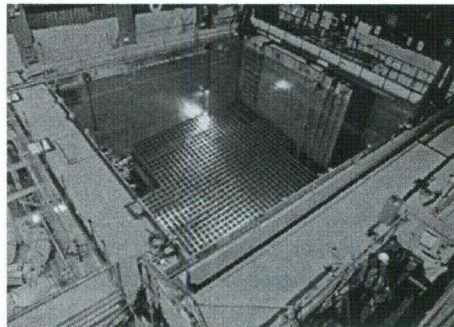
The NRC has established inspection activities to verify that spent fuel pool design features, operational controls, and security are maintained at each facility consistent with its license. Refueling practices, including spent fuel pool operations, are inspected each refueling. In addition, the NRC implemented special inspection activities to verify proper implementation of new spent fuel cooling capabilities and changes in operating practices.

NRC's regulatory program includes oversight of the independent review and certification of dry cask designs and on-site inspection of cask designers, fabricators, and licensees. This regulatory program ensures compliance with NRC storage regulations, certificates of compliance for each NRC-approved storage system. The program requires that the general licensee perform internal demonstrations of all activities needed safely load a cask in the pool and transfer it to the storage pad, as well as the reverse in the event a loaded cask has to be unloaded and its fuel returned to the pool. NRC inspectors with specific knowledge of ISFSI operations observe and assess the adequacy of the licensee's demonstrations (usually referred to as the NRC-observed dry run) and these inspectors observe all initial cask loadings. Subsequent loadings may be observed by regional inspectors or the on-site resident inspectors. The regional offices also perform periodic inspections of routine ISFSI operations.

## Spent Fuel Pool Design

### Protection against Natural Phenomena and Dynamic Effects

The spent fuel pool structures (walls, floor slabs and supports) for all operating reactors are designed to seismic standards consistent with other important safety-related structures on the site. The storage racks supporting the stored fuel are also designed to maintain the design storage configuration following a seismic event. The spent fuel pool and its supporting systems are located within structures that provide appropriate protection against natural phenomena and dynamic effects. The large inventory of water maintained over the stored fuel, typically more than 20 feet above the top of the spent fuel rods, provides substantial protection itself by absorbing the energy of likely flying debris that may enter the pool through the surface. The thick walls and floor slabs have been evaluated to maintain structural integrity and protect the fuel from impact by flying debris resulting from postulated equipment failures and natural phenomena.



### Maintenance of Water Inventory

The stainless-steel-lined spent fuel pool structure protects against a substantial loss of inventory. Piping which enters the pool structure is typically above the stored fuel, and with few exceptions, the operating reactor pool structures have been designed with no penetrations below the top of the stored fuel. The only exceptions are small lines used to detect liner leakage that have been equipped with means for isolation and, at two pressurized water reactor (PWR) sites, robust fuel transfer tubes that enter the spent fuel pool directly. The liner normally prevents any loss of inventory through the leak detection lines, but isolation valves or plugs are available if the liner experiences a large leak or tear. The spent fuel pool and fuel storage area have instruments to alert operators to lower-than-normal cooling water levels, higher-than-normal cooling water temperature, and high radiation levels.

### Spent Fuel Pool Cooling Systems

Each pool has an attached cooling system that transfers residual heat from radioactive decay in the stored fuel to the environment. These systems have adequate capacity to maintain spent fuel pool coolant temperature at levels that provide substantial time for recovery of cooling prior to reaching saturation conditions (i.e., bulk boiling) in the spent fuel pool. The NRC has ensured administrative controls on the transfer of fuel from the reactor to the spent fuel pool maintain this time for recovery of cooling or establishment of make-up water connections.

### Make-up Water

All plants have systems available which can provide make-up water to the spent fuel pools to replace water lost due to evaporation or leakage. Most have at least one system which is designed to be available following a design basis earthquake. However, operating experience indicates that even non-seismically designed systems are likely to survive a design basis earthquake and be available for make-up to the spent fuel pools.

Furthermore, temporary systems are described in emergency and accident procedures to provide make-up water to the spent fuel pool if the normal make-up systems are unavailable. In some cases, these make-up water paths require installation of short piping segments between systems or connection of hoses. However, the fuel is unlikely to rapidly become uncovered because of the large inventory of spent fuel pool water, the robust design of the pool structure, and the limited paths for loss of water from the pool.

#### Emergency Cooling

In addition to the temporary make-up water systems, the nuclear power plant operators have established backup emergency cooling capability for the spent fuel pool in the unlikely event that a substantial loss of spent fuel pool coolant occurs that cannot be promptly recovered. As described above, the design of the spent fuel pool provides a high likelihood that events affecting the spent fuel pool would evolve slowly. To further slow the evolution of events involving a substantial loss of coolant, the configuration of spent fuel in the pool is carefully managed. The emergency cooling capability uses temporary equipment that would be available following fires, explosions, and other unlikely events that damage large portions of the facility and may prevent operation of normal cooling and make-up systems. The plant operators have been trained to use the emergency cooling equipment, and it has been evaluated to provide adequate cooling even if the pool structure loses its water-tight integrity. Thus, establishment of this emergency cooling capability within several hours would be adequate to protect the stored fuel from further degradation in a number of extreme scenarios.

#### Margin to Criticality

Under normal conditions, spent fuel pools have substantial margin to prevent criticality (i.e., a condition where fission would become self-sustaining) through the use of spacing between fuel assemblies and neutron-absorbing plates attached to the storage rack between each fuel assembly. Calculations demonstrate that some margin to criticality is maintained for a variety of abnormal conditions, including fuel handling accidents involving a dropped fuel assembly.

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 11:57 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenda Akstulewicz; Chandrathil, Prema; David McIntyre; Diane Screnci; Holly Harrington; Ivonne Couret; Janbergs, Holly; Ledford, Joey; Neil Sheehan; Roger Hannah; Scott Burnell; Uselding, Lara; Valerie Shannon; Victor Dricks; Viktoria Mitlyng  
**Subject:** FW: Query: MSNBC article.

I think this says get to it when you can get to it.

eliot

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**From:** Nichols, Russell  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 10:51 AM  
**To:** Leeds, Eric  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Virgilio, Martin; Ash, Darren; Boyce, Thomas (OIS); Holonich, Joseph; Rothschild, Trip; Hirsch, Patricia  
**Subject:** FW: Query: MSNBC article.

Eric,

Trip asked me to respond to your question.

Unfortunately, we have no recourse. The FOIA law is clear that media get fee waivers and it does not require their requests to be their original thoughts. We often get requests from media that were fed to them from non-media individuals. Here are the comments Trip sent to me this morning on your question: "I don't think we will ever know whether a particular request comes from an MSNBC employee or one resulting from their public solicitation of requests. Therefore, I don't know how we could argue that they need to pay. The more FOIA requests they submit, the longer the wait for a response. So I am not sure what the solicitation will get them."

The OIS FOIA staff is thoroughly reviewing each and every request for expedited processing and fee waivers, and will only grant those that meet the criteria. We will coordinate with OGC if we have a doubt whether or not to grant a request, so as to have their legal advice and support in the event we deny one that looks close. However, it is much easier for the media to obtain expedited processing than the average citizen, which is why all of the ones that have been granted so far are from the media. It looks like this is going to become a part of our life for awhile. Our plan is to make the responses to all of these publicly available in hopes that it will reduce the duplicate requests. The sooner we can get these responses out on the web, the quicker we should see a decrease in requests.

Expedited processing does not mean you need to pull assets off of other critical missions in order to process these requests. The intent of the expedited processing category is to move these requests to the front of the existing FOIA queue. Therefore, using the first-in, first-out theory, they get priority for processing more quickly than would have otherwise occurred. However, the FOIA does not intend that agencies drop everything they are doing to process an expedited request. The FOIA says that expedited requests should be processed "as soon as practicable." In other words, as soon as feasible with the resources you have available, but they cannot be set aside with no action being taken on them.

Russ Nichols, Branch Chief  
Information Services Branch  
Information and Records Services Division

BU/890

Office of Information Services  
(301) 415-6874

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**From:** Rothschild, Trip  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:44 PM  
**To:** Nichols, Russell; Sealing, Donna; Hirsch, Patricia  
**Subject:** Fw: Query: MSNBC article.

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**From:** Leeds, Eric  
**To:** Burns, Stephen; Rothschild, Trip  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Virgilio, Martin  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 18:32:54 2011  
**Subject:** Query: MSNBC article.

Steve/Trip -

Please see the email below. If you go to the website, you find how MSNBC is using their process to allow folks to bypass the fee rules for FOIAs. Is there any recourse the agency can take?

Thanks!

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1270

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**From:** Meighan, Sean  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:27 PM  
**To:** Leeds, Eric  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Quynh  
**Subject:** MSNBC article.

Eric:

As per our discussion the below site allows anyone to submit a FOIA request that MSNBC will submit. We have one example as to where a member of the public sent in a FOIA to the NRC, then 2 or 3 days later that exact FOIA was requested by MSNBC (thereby bypassing fee rules). The example is

- Any letters or memos documenting exemptions to NRC regulations at a nuclear facility. PDF file.

Very Respectfully

Sean

<http://openchannel.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/03/24/6335625-what-nrc-nuclear-documents-do-you-want-to-see-heres-our-list>

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**From:** Meighan, Sean  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:29 AM  
**To:** Nichols, Russell; Sealing, Donna  
**Cc:** Craver, Patti; Raphael, Mary Jean  
**Subject:** FYI, MSNBC article.

Now, every member of the public effectively has a fee waiver because the reporter will submit any FOIA request.

<http://openchannel.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/03/24/6335625-what-nrc-nuclear-documents-do-you-want-to-see-heres-our-list>

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 11:54 AM  
**To:** Eric Weiner  
**Subject:** RE: Jaczko Japan Trip

Gee, nice try.

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Weiner [mailto:ejw77@me.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:52 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: Re: Jaczko Japan Trip

If it was just one tbs camera then it wouldn't be too bad right? :)

Eric Weiner  
Producer  
Tokyo Broadcasting System  
Washington, DC Bureau  
Office: 202-393-3801  
Cell: (b)(6)

On Mar 28, 2011, at 11:50, "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

> He'd string me up if there were a gaggle waiting for him when he got off the plane, whenever and wherever that might be!

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Eric Weiner [mailto:ejw77@me.com]  
> Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:46 AM  
> To: Brenner, Eliot  
> Subject: Re: Jaczko Japan Trip

>

> Thanks. Any way we could get more accurate return details-for planning only?

>

> Eric Weiner  
> Producer  
> Tokyo Broadcasting System  
> Washington, DC Bureau  
> Office: 202-393-3801  
> Cell: (b)(6)

>

> On Mar 28, 2011, at 11:44, "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

>

>> He went. He met, the Embassy put out a statement, and sooner or later he will leave in time to get back for Wednesday's hearing. Beyond that, nothing. Sorry.

>>

>> Eliot

>>  
>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Eric Weiner [mailto:ejw77@me.com]  
>> Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:42 AM  
>> To: Brenner, Eliot  
>> Subject: Jaczko Japan Trip  
>>  
>> Hey Eliot:  
>>  
>> Do you have any details of Jaczko's trip to Japan? Thanks.  
>> Eric  
>>  
>> Eric Weiner  
>> Producer  
>> Tokyo Broadcasting System  
>> Washington, DC Bureau  
>> Office: 202-393-3801  
>> Cell: (b)(6)

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**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Re: japan interviews

K

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 28 10:41:49 2011  
**Subject:** japan interviews

(b)(5),(b)(6)

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

BV/892

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**From:** Strickler, Laura <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 10:50 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Jaczko interview

Hi there, he can't be here on wednesday for sure and speakerphone would not work. But we are willing to do it anywhere at any time on thursday, actual intrvu should not take more than 15 min, we can arrange a location on the hill if need be.

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
To: Strickler, Laura  
Sent: Mon Mar 28 10:39:27 2011  
Subject: RE: Jaczko interview

We can set a speakerphone up so the correspondent could ask the questions if necessary. Thanks.

From: Strickler, Laura [<mailto:StricklerL@cbsnews.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:38 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: Re: Jaczko interview

Eliot, let me check, our correspondent is supposed to be in salt lake city that day and I don't think he can do it but let me check.

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
To: Strickler, Laura  
Sent: Mon Mar 28 09:59:55 2011  
Subject: Jaczko interview

Thursday is turning into a logistical nightmare. What are the chances you could bring a crew up here (white flint stop on Red Line) for a 4:30 p.m. slot on Wednesday afternoon?

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

Bu/893

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**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 10:49 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: I'm working out of the OPA conference room

Great. I'll have a fact sheet for you and Scott to review shortly.

Beth

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Brian; Harrington, Holly; Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David; Couret, Ivonne; Akstulewicz, Brenda; Janbergs, Holly; Shannon, Valerie; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: I'm working out of the OPA conference room

Thanks. now we know where to hunt you down!

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**From:** Anderson, Brian  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:58 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David; Couret, Ivonne; Akstulewicz, Brenda; Janbergs, Holly; Shannon, Valerie; Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** I'm working out of the OPA conference room

I've set myself up in the OPA conference room. If you need me, I'm right around the corner.

FYI,  
Brian

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:17 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Rtrs - is Chairman Jaczko in Tokyo ?

Thanks for your quick reply, I appreciate it.  
By "statement" I assume you mean the US Embassy in Tokyo's statement?  
Thanks / Roberta

---

**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

Reuters

Phone: 202 898 8376  
Mobile: (b)(6)  
[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:15 AM  
**To:** Rampton, Roberta (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** RE: Rtrs - is Chairman Jaczko in Tokyo ?

1: yes, for now  
2: what the statement says  
3: no

On background, this is a short trip because he has to be back to appear at congressional hearings starting Wednesday.

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**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:12 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** Rtrs - is Chairman Jaczko in Tokyo ?

Hello – is the chairman in Tokyo? What is he doing there? Will he have media availability there?  
Best thanks for your help,  
Roberta

**U.S. NRC head offers support for Fukushima nuclear crisis management**  
Kyodo  
137 words  
28 March 2011

BU/895

07:07  
Kyodo News  
KYODO  
English  
(c) 2011 Kyodo News

TOKYO, March 28 -- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory **Jaczk**o on Monday offered full U.S. support to Japan in tackling the ongoing nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

After meetings in Tokyo with senior officials of the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the plant, **Jaczk**o said, "Our nuclear experts are working closely with their Japanese counterparts, and we both continue to share expert analysis as we move forward to address this challenge," according to a press release issued by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

"The unprecedented challenge before us remains serious and our best experts remain fully engaged to help Japan address the situation," said the NRC chairman who arrived in Tokyo on Monday.

==Kyodo

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**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

Reuters

Phone: 202 898 8376

Mobile: (b)(6)

[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:14 AM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: Questions fro NHK

Not real high at the moment. Will see a bit later whether he would stand for anything at the airport, but don't tell them that.

eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: McIntyre, David  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:06 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: FW: Questions fro NHK

How are we for token interviews?

-----Original Message-----

From: sakurai@nhkdc.com [mailto:sakurai@nhkdc.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:05 AM  
To: McIntyre, David  
Subject: Re: Questions fro NHK

David,

Thank you for getting back to me very quickly. Chairman's schedule for Wednesday and Thursday has been already publicly announced from the Hill, and already published in the week ahead.

As for the interview, would it be at all possible to do an interview in Tokyo, or as soon as he gets back? I do understand there would be tremendous requests at this time; however ALL Japanese people and around the globe are watching NHK regarding Fukushima Daiicchi. If you would consider this situation, and regard this interview as a token of friendship to Japan, we would very much appreciate it.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration!

Best,  
Reiko

Reiko Sakurai

(b)(6)

Correspondent  
NHK/Japan Broadcasting Corporation

-----元のメッセージ-----

送信者: McIntyre, David  
To: [sakurai@nhkdc.com](mailto:sakurai@nhkdc.com)  
件名: RE: Questions fro NHK  
送信: 2011/3/28 8:46 AM

Hi Reiko - I'm afraid we are not discussing details of the Chairman's itinerary - except to say, ON BACKGROUND and not for attribution - that he is scheduled to testify on Capitol Hill on Wednesday and Thursday. As for an interview, I'll put you on the list, but it is a very long list at this point.

-----Original Message-----

From: sakurai@nhkdc.com [mailto:sakurai@nhkdc.com]

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:35 AM

To: McIntyre, David

Subject: Questions fro NHK

David,

I heard from the US embassy in Japan that the Chairman is in Tokyo. I would like to know if he would be in Japan for a few days, or whether he is already on his way back, and how long his stay is/was. Has he visited only Japan, or has he gone elsewhere near Fukushima? I also want to know if he would be willing to do an interview with us in Japan or here in DC. Thank you so much for your attention, as always!

Best,

Reiko Sakurai

NHK/Japan Broadcasting Corporation

(b)(6) cell

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

---

**From:** Chang, Benjamin <ChangBE@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 9:03 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: AP Reporter Jeff Donn

Cool

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 08:52 AM  
To: Chang, Benjamin; Kelley, Karen D (IO/Tokyo); Foggie, Kirk <Kirk.Foggie@nrc.gov>; Webster, Jessica M (TDY/ECN); Batkin, Joshua <Joshua.Batkin@nrc.gov>  
Subject: RE: AP Reporter Jeff Donn

I have requests already from WSJ, NHK and the AP reporter. I have told folks no one-on-ones. (AP's Donn is after NRC on license renewal for older plants.) Think we should decline all and let comments at congressional hearings Wednesday and Thursday suffice. I presume there will be a bit of a scrum in the halls afterwards anyway.

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Chang, Benjamin [mailto:ChangBE@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:49 AM  
To: Kelley, Karen D (IO/Tokyo); Brenner, Eliot; Foggie, Kirk; Webster, Jessica M (TDY/ECN); Batkin, Joshua  
Subject: Re: AP Reporter Jeff Donn

Arigato

Adding NRC for their s.a but sounds right - no one-on-one's here.

----- Original Message -----

From: Kelley, Karen D (IO/Tokyo)  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 08:46 AM  
To: Chang, Benjamin  
Subject: AP Reporter Jeff Donn

Ben,

AP reporter Jeff Donn (US based) would like to interview NRC Chairman, however briefly, on his visit to Tokyo. Says that he has interviewed the Chairman in the US. His telephone/mobile is (b)(6).

I have already told him that there were no press avails on this trip.

Karen

Bu/897

---

**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:40 AM  
**To:** Boska, John  
**Cc:** Gray, Mel; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Indian Point exemptions story  
**Attachments:** IPExemptions.3-27-2011.pdf

John,

(b)(5)

Thanks,  
Neil

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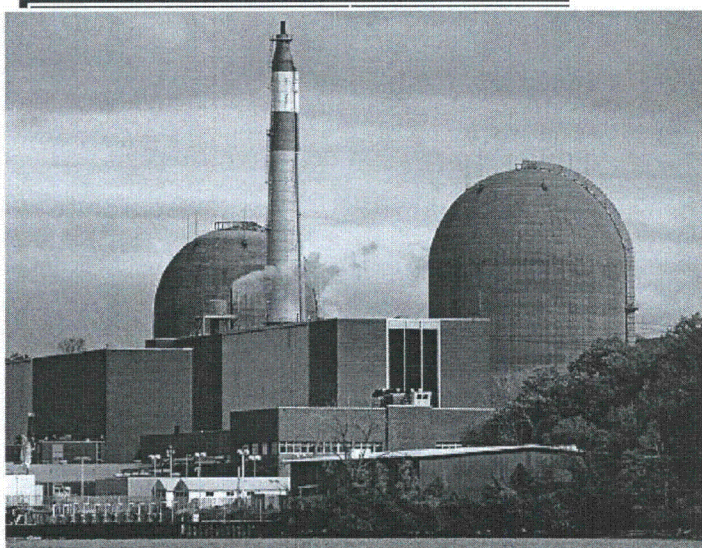
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## Indian Point's gotten a free pass on safety regulations over last decade, feds delay evacuation plan

 BY Douglas Feiden and Brian Kates  
 DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Sunday, March 27th 2011, 4:00 AM



DI PAOLA/Bloomberg

Indian Point nuclear power plant operates along the Hudson River in Buchanan, N.Y.

Federal nuclear watchdogs say Indian Point is their No.1 priority - but over the last decade they've let the aging nuke plant bypass scores of critical safety rules.

In the fallout from Japan's crisis, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission tried to quell growing fears about safety at the 40-year-old plant that's built on an earthquake fault just 24 miles from New York City.

Yet the agency has a history of granting Indian Point's owner, Entergy, numerous exemptions to regulations governing fire safety, storage of spent fuel, and systems designed to prevent meltdown.

Gov. Cuomo called for closing Indian Point permanently after a recent federal report branded it the most vulnerable to an earthquake in the nation.

The plant's licenses expire in 2013 and 2015 and Entergy has applied for a 20-year renewal. The NRC, which has repeatedly declared Indian Point safe, has never denied a nuclear plant relicensing.

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan insisted the agency has "followed appropriate processes" when considering Indian Point's request for exemptions to NRC rules.

He could not say how many had been granted in the 10 years that Entergy has owned the plant, but the number is so high that "it's not feasible for me to recount the history of all of them."

A Daily News review indicates they include:

Extending deadlines for the plant to install and test equipment to prevent radiological sabotage. Denying the exemption would have "added expense to both the NRC and the licensee," the agency said.

Reduced inspection requirements for a spent fuel pool known to be leaking radioactive material.

Curtailed inspections for a rusting reactor dome.

Changes in safeguards for the transfer of spent fuel.

Allowing insulation on cables that control reactor core shutdown to withstand fire for only 24 minutes - not the one hour NRC regulations usually require.

Entergy spokesman Jerry Nappi said no exemption has made the plant unsafe and that backup systems ensure all safety requirements are met.

Still, critics worry that safety has been compromised.

Deborah Brancato, a lawyer for the environmental group Riverkeeper, said the "NRC's misuse of exemptions has significantly reduced safety standards and required inspections at Indian Point."

The NRC did little to allay fears with its recent admission that nearly one-third of the nation's 143 nuclear plants don't report major safety risks because regulations are "contradictory and unclear."

That agency's admission came after an inspector general's probe concluded nuke plant reporting lapses "could reduce the margin of safety for operating nuclear power reactors."

Though the NRC passed Indian Point on all its inspections last year, a number of troubling problems surfaced, documents show:

*Discrepancies in the alert notification system for the emergency operations facility.*

*Safety reporting that did not conform to plant conditions.*

*Missing equipment needed for safe shutdown procedures.*

*Conditions that could lead to failure of a pump needed to prevent core damage in an emergency shutdown. The problem had not been corrected since 2001.*

[bkates@nydailynews.com](mailto:bkates@nydailynews.com)

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#### From Around the Web

The 15 Lowest-Grossing Oscar Winners (CNBC)

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Nuclear Energy Is Dead: Cramer (TheStreet)

10 Commandments for Frugal Living (TheStreet.com)

Six Reasons Not to Buy the Verizon iPhone 4 (PCWorld)

[[what's this](#)]

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:33 AM  
**To:** Power, Stephen  
**Subject:** RE: Interview request

The Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, traveled to Tokyo on March 28 to convey directly to his Japanese counterparts a message of support and cooperation, and to assess the current situation.

Following his meetings with senior Japanese government and TEPCO officials, Chairman Jaczko said, "Our nuclear experts are working closely with their Japanese counterparts, and we both continue to share expert analysis as we move forward to address this challenge. I reconfirmed in my meetings that we are prepared to provide any assistance we can in the days to come."

Chairman Jaczko further added, "The unprecedented challenge before us remains serious and our best experts remain fully engaged to help Japan address the situation."

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Power, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:14 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Interview request

Eliot:

We just found out from the U.S. ambassador's tweets that Mr. Jaczko's in Tokyo. My colleagues in Tokyo have been trying unsuccessfully to reach him through the embassy. Can we get an interview with him today?

Best,

Steve Power  
The Wall Street Journal

(b)(6)

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 8:25 PM  
**To:** 'brian.sherron@nrc.gov'  
**Subject:** White paper question

(b)(5)

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:37 AM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** RE: CQ story  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.gif; image006.jpg

Yep. I was pleased. Anytime there are a few good quotes you are ahead of the game.

---

**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:28 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Re: CQ story

Pretty good, huh?

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Sun Mar 27 08:52:59 2011  
**Subject:** FW: CQ story

Here's the CQ profile on the boss.

(b)(5)

eliot

CQ WEEKLY – COVER STORY  
March 28, 2011 – Page 680

Nuclear Energy Policy: A Stress Test  
By Margaret Kriz Hobson and Geof Koss, CQ Staff

On March 16, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko was called to Capitol Hill to update lawmakers on the nuclear power crisis in Japan. In his opening statement, he announced that in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, one of the nuclear waste pools at the Fukushima Daiichi power complex had been drained of its protective water. As a result, dangerous amounts of radiation were being released into the atmosphere. Based on that assessment, the administration recommended that American citizens living within 50 miles of the damaged plants leave the area.

The news of the worsening problems at the Japanese facility riveted the world, which was hungry for authoritative information about conditions at the complex. And Jaczko's statements were at odds with the Japanese government's decision to set a 12-mile evacuation zone around the plants.

He had focused international attention on the potential dangers of storing spent radioactive fuel at power plant sites, which happens to be what U.S. utilities do well.

But he also exposed some of the tension in his position. There he was highlighting the hazards of nuclear power, promising action if additional controls became necessary at American plants, while serving an administration pursuing a nuclear growth strategy.

In addition, few people have played a bigger role than Jaczko over the past in impeding the permanent disposal site at Yucca Mountain, which is the industry's preferred solution to the nuclear waste question.

As appropriations director and science policy adviser to Senate Majority Leader Reid, Jaczko coordinated the Nevada Democrat's fight against the Yucca Without Yucca, the waste continues to pile up in the temporary storage pools. his appointment to the commission in 2005, Jaczko has pressed utilities to more of the waste from storage ponds to concrete-and-steel casks, which he suggested could safely be stored on-site for up to three centuries. The power industry has resisted, worried that it would cost too much and eliminate political pressure for the government to take custody of radioactive waste.

Jaczko's blunt assessment of the conditions at the Japan utility was not welcomed by nuclear power backers in the United States, who had been urging Americans to wait for a thorough review of the Japanese accident before reaching conclusions. The industry-backed Nuclear Energy Institute moved to "clarify" the evacuation issue, releasing fact sheets that agreed the warning citizens was "prudent" but stating that "this action should not be interpreted as standard that should be applied to U.S. reactor emergency planning policy, specifically the use of a 50-mile zone."

Since Jaczko's Capitol Hill appearance, the five-member NRC agreed to examine the safety of America's 104 nuclear power reactors located in 31 states across the country. Those facilities also house 65,000 metric tons of radioactive waste, an estimated 76 percent of which is now warehoused in pools, according to the NEI. While federal regulators say the radioactive waste can be secured for a century at the nation's commercial nuclear generation sites, Jaczko's comments inevitably raise doubts about safety.

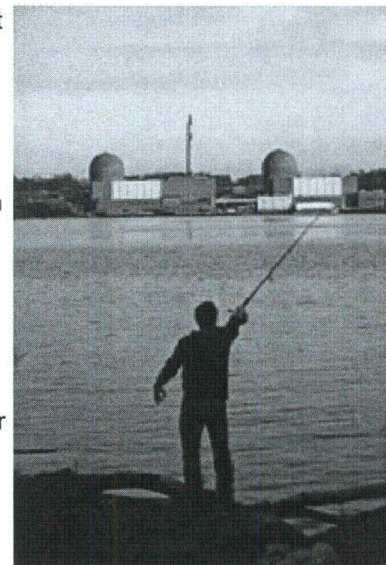
Despite this history of conflict with the industry, the sharpest questions for Jaczko in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster have come from liberals already skeptical about nuclear power.

While briefing the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on March 16, Jaczko was scolded by Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, demanding answers about the safety of two plants in her state. "I'm looking to you for more leadership than I've gotten," she lectured. Before the House Energy and Commerce Committee earlier in the day, he faced a barrage of difficult questions from Edward J. Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat for whom Jaczko once worked as a congressional science fellow.

Markey later said in a telephone interview that he thinks Jaczko is "committed to improving the NRC transparency" and "lets the science speak for itself." He credited Jaczko with being "proactive" by initiating a review of how vulnerable U.S. reactors might be to earthquakes and the electricity outages that have plagued the Japanese facility.

"I think he is doing a very good job," Markey said. "But he's working hard to question a lot of the assumptions that people have about safety in the nuclear industry."

The Nation's Fears



as

decade

Harry project. Since move

**ACROSS THE WATER:** Japan's catastrophe has raised concerns anew about the safety of nuclear power plants on these shores, such as the Indian Point plant on the Hudson River in New York. (GETTY IMAGES / MARIO TAMA)

quickly to U.S. a



The Plan for Yucca Mountain: [Click here to view chart](#)

Former NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve, who headed the commission during Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, said the task facing Jaczko and his fellow commissioners is "trying to understand exactly what happened at the Japanese what vulnerabilities they reveal, and what things, as a result, we need to re-examine and possibly change."

"In my view, you can't just quickly decide what the ultimate answer is," he said, that so far Jaczko "has been doing the right things."

Like government officials of the past who have been thrust into national crises terrorist attacks, hurricanes or the financial market collapse, Jaczko faces the challenge of handling the nation's fears without sacrificing his own credibility. A week after the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, he said during a C-SPAN interview that the commission has "a program in place that would deal with the kinds of situations that we are seeing in Japan." But he also noted that what the Japanese are dealing with "is a very, very difficult situation and that there will be plenty of opportunity when this crisis is resolved to really figure out what happened and how we can all learn from it."

#### Reid's Protégé

Jaczko declined to be interviewed for this article. But his mentor Reid said he is the right man for the challenging job.

"Greg's entire career has been dedicated to applying science to public policy," Reid said in a statement. "His work in Congress and at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has improved the safety of nuclear power plants and is based on his demonstrated commitment to bringing all stakeholders to the table."

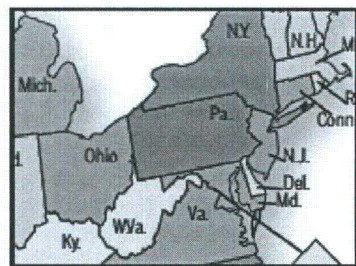
Jaczko, 40, owes his position as the NRC chairman to Reid's political clout and stubborn persistence. Jaczko is thin and lanky, an avid cyclist who was warned against biking to work by aides who feared the potential dangers of Washington's congested traffic. He grew up in Albany, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a doctorate in theoretical particle physics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He then headed to Washington to work as a congressional science fellow for Markey, one of Congress's most vocal critics of the nuclear industry.

Jaczko later joined Reid's staff and the fight against the Yucca Mountain repository. Congress in 1987 selected the location, which lies about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as the permanent disposal site for the utilities' radioactive nuclear waste. Opponents say the site is geologically unsuitable to contain the waste safely for thousands of years, but at the time, Nevada lacked the political wherewithal to derail the selection.

Reid has waged a bare-knuckled political fight against the Yucca facility, using his position to whittle away the project's annual budget and to block legislative efforts to hasten its completion. After he became minority leader in 2005, Reid struck a deal with President George W. Bush to nominate Jaczko to an open seat on the five-member NRC. To twist Bush's arm, Reid stalled Senate approval of 175 presidential nominees. To ease strenuous opposition from industry and Senate Republicans, the deal limited Jaczko to a single two-year term on the commission, as well as a promise that he would recuse himself from all Yucca matters for the first year.

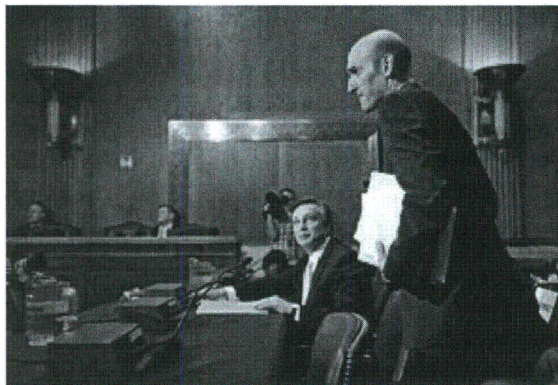
Senate conservatives argued that Jaczko should permanently recuse himself from Yucca matters. Jaczko refused, telling Oklahoma Republican James. M. Inhofe, then the Senate Environment and Public Works chairman, that he was determined to show impartiality.

"My hope is that within one year, I will have demonstrated that absolutely I can be fair and objective," he said in 2005. During the recusal period, Jaczko steadfastly declined to discuss Yucca publicly, even refusing to answer a question on nuclear waste from Sen. Barack Obama during a hearing.



the  
plants,  
adding

Radioactive Waste: [Click here to view chart](#) after



**EXPERT WITNESS:** Jaczko takes his seat at a March 16 Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on the Japan crisis. (CQ/ SCOTT J. FERRELL)

Despite the earlier agreement to limit Jaczko to two years on the NRC, Reid used his enhanced power as majority leader in 2007 to press Bush to nominate the former aide for a full five-year term. He was confirmed in 2008. After Obama won the presidential election later that year, Reid persuaded the new president to designate Jaczko as the panel's chairman — and to put the brakes on the Yucca Mountain project by formally asking the NRC to withdraw its review of the licensing application in early 2010.

As a result, nuclear utilities found themselves appealing to the Jaczko-led NRC to prevent a shutdown of the Nevada facility. Jaczko's handling of the Yucca Mountain issue has drawn criticism from nuclear supporters in Congress, prompting bitter public charges of collusion with the administration to close the door on the project forever.

Last October, Jaczko instructed NRC staff to start closing down the Energy Department's license application for Yucca. Supporters of the project say the move was an attempt to sidestep a recommendation last June by an NRC administrative panel, which found that the Obama administration lacked legal authority to withdraw the application.

While that recommendation has given Yucca supporters faint hope that the project isn't dead, the decision is in legal limbo until the full NRC rules on it. As chairman, Jaczko decides when to issue a ruling — even though Republican commissioners publicly released their votes last fall.

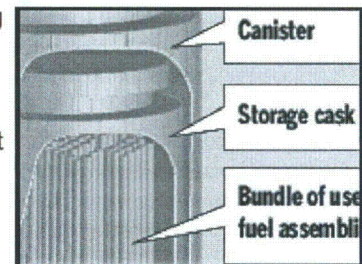
The delay of a final decision by the NRC plays into the administration's hands in an ongoing federal lawsuit over whether the executive branch can cancel Yucca without congressional approval. During oral arguments last week, a panel of judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals suggested they may lack jurisdiction to decide the issue until the NRC issues a final ruling. Jaczko has given little indication of when — or even if — that may happen.

In an unusually blunt letter to Jaczko last fall, senior House Republicans suggested an "appearance of coordinated action between you" and the Energy Department. But Jaczko was largely given a pass on the Yucca flap during his Capitol Hill appearances earlier this month, when some of his biggest critics instead sought assurances about the safety of U.S. plants.

#### Storage Pool Concerns

While Japanese officials initially downplayed the concern voiced by Jaczko on March 16, they later conceded that water in one of the pools was heating up and in danger of boiling off. The situation that Jaczko highlighted drew new attention to the dangers that spent-fuel pools on nuclear plant sites might pose in the event of natural disasters.

A 2003 report by the Government Accountability Office noted that NRC studies found that the risk of "widespread harm to human health from spent fuel arises from the remote possibility of a sustained loss of coolant in a spent fuel pool." That could result in a fire that would "disperse radioactive material across a wide area" and result in "200 early fatalities and thousands of latent cancer fatalities," the GAO report said. It added that a "catastrophic earthquake" or "loss of electrical power, which would shut down the pool cooling system," were among the events that could cause such an accident.



An Alternative for Storage: [Click here to view chart](#)

Anti-nuclear advocates were quick to point out that the spent-fuel pools at the 30 or so U.S. reactors with designs similar to the stricken Japanese generators are much more densely packed, containing by some estimates four or five times as much spent fuel.

"We're talking about some of the largest concentrations of radioactivity on the planet in these pools," said Robert Alvarez, a former Energy Department official and nuclear critic at the Institute for Policy Studies.

He said that for decades the NRC has allowed nuclear plant operators to stockpile the waste in the pools on the assumption that it would ultimately be transferred to a permanent disposal site. With Yucca off the table and an alternative perhaps decades away, critics say the regulators should require utilities to offload some waste to dry storage casks, which some maintain are safer from seismic threats.

Jaczko has also called for such requirements, telling an industry conference in 2008 that moving spent fuel from pools into dry casks was "the most clear-cut example of where additional safety margins can be gained."

But NRC officials say it's premature to suggest that the commission will zero in on the safety of the industry's nuclear fuel pools or consider the future of Yucca Mountain as it responds to the Japanese situation. The commission recently announced plans to conduct a short-term staff review of U.S. nuclear plant safety.

"We will work through all of this information methodically, systematically and carefully to determine what lessons can be drawn that might be applicable for consideration for changes in the U.S. safety regulatory structure," said NRC spokesman Eliot Brenner.

#### Nuclear's Future

Meanwhile, nuclear regulators say the Japanese situation will not stop them from relicensing existing nuclear plants or prompt them to slow down review of proposals to build new nuclear reactors.

The NRC is also standing firm on its decision to allow the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant to continue operating for an additional 20 years, despite complaints by state officials and Vermont independent Sen. Bernard Sanders that the facility is unsafe. Vermont lawmakers say they will try to block the reactor's continued operations under state law.

U.S. nuclear industry executives predict that the NRC will beef up safety standards in response to Japan's disaster. New controls will raise the cost of operating nuclear power plants, a concern that could make utility companies rethink whether to continue operating existing nuclear plants or to move forward with plans to construct expensive new reactors.

"Let's not fool ourselves," said John Rowe, chairman of Exelon Corp., which owns more nuclear power plants than any other U.S. company. "We are going to spend a lot of money on new regulatory reviews, and we are going to face some kind of new requirements."

A week after the Japan accident, Rowe called a special phone briefing to assure his investors and the public that Exelon's reactors are safe and that he and other nuclear industry officials are taking seriously the Fukushima disaster. He ranked the episode in Japan as "clearly worse than the 1979 accident" at the Three Mile Island nuclear facility in Pennsylvania but not as bad as the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl.

Although Rowe isn't interested in building a new nuclear plant — he has long argued that it's too expensive — other industry executives are still weighing a nuclear future. All of the nation's nuclear power utilities are carefully monitoring the steps that Jaczko and the commission take to guarantee that the U.S. nuclear power fleet is safe. So far, the NRC has refused to speculate on the policy changes that might result from the Japanese accident.

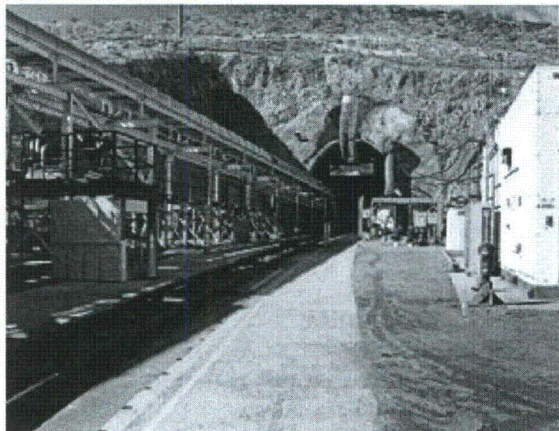
Other Obama administration officials have been more forthcoming. Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently said regulators are likely to consider the safety of the Indian Point nuclear plant near New York City, owned by Entergy Corp., a power-generating company that operates 11 U.S. commercial reactors, including Vermont Yankee.

"We're going to have to look at whether this reactor should remain," Chu told Fox News, although he added: "I don't want to make any — jump to some judgment about what we should do going forward."

Chu also suggested that regulators will steer new nuclear plants away from sites near large cities, although he showed no signs that the administration is backing off its broader support for nuclear power.

"Certainly, where we site reactors going forward will be different than where we might have sited them in the past," said Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist. "Any time there is a serious accident, we have to learn from those accidents and go forward."

For Further Reading: *Japanese accident's impact on U.S. nuclear industry*, CQ Weekly, p. 616; *alternatives to Yucca Mountain*, 2009 CQ Weekly, p. 966; *short-term nuclear storage dilemma*, 2006 CQ Weekly, p. 1147; *Yucca selected as nuclear waste site*, 1987 CQ Almanac, pp. 307-308.



WAITING: Political opposition has kept the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain from opening. (GETTY IMAGES / AFP / MAXIM KNIIAZKOV)

Source: CQ Weekly

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**From:** Juliana Hoskinson <jhoskinson@bulletinnews.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 8:19 AM  
**To:** nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: FW: CQ story

Hi Eliot,

Thanks for both heads up. We'll watch for the coverage and include the CQ piece. We subscribe to CQ as well.

Enjoy this snowy Sunday!  
Juliana

Juliana Hoskinson  
703-483-6192

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot [Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
Received: Sunday, 27 Mar 2011, 8:01am  
To: 'nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com' [nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com]  
Subject: FW: CQ story

Don't know if you have access to the CQ weekly electronically. This is available there. Thanks.

Also, please keep an eye out for any stories about Jackzo being in Japan and lead with them should there be any.

Eliot

From: Margaret Hobson [mailto:MargaretHobson@cqrollcall.com]  
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 7:45 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: CQ story

Hi Eliot,

Don't know if you have access to CQ Weekly, so I've included our cover story on Jaczko below. This issue comes out in print tomorrow, but is available online today.

I think it turned out pretty well, although it was almost hijacked in the editing process. I welcome your comments.

Hope we can work together again. Let the Chairman know I'd love to do a Q&A with him anytime so we can present things in his own words.

Thanks,  
Margie

Margaret Kriz Hobson  
Energy and Environment Reporter  
CQ/Roll Call  
mhobson@cq.com<mailto:mhobson@cq.com>  
(202) 419-8551

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CQ WEEKLY - COVER STORY

March 28, 2011 - Page 680

Nuclear Energy Policy: A Stress Test

By Margaret Kriz Hobson and Geof Koss, CQ Staff

On March 16, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko was called to Capitol Hill to update lawmakers on the nuclear power crisis in Japan. In his opening statement, he announced that in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, one of the nuclear waste pools at the Fukushima Daiichi power complex had been drained of its protective water. As a result, dangerous amounts of radiation were being released into the atmosphere. Based on that assessment, the administration recommended that American citizens living within 50 miles of the damaged plants leave the area.

The news of the worsening problems at the Japanese facility riveted the world, which was hungry for authoritative information about conditions at the complex. And Jaczko's statements were at odds with the Japanese government's decision to set a 12-mile evacuation zone around the plants.

[cid:image001.jpg@01CBEC55.2419B170]

ACROSS THE WATER: Japan's catastrophe has raised concerns anew about the safety of nuclear power plants on these shores, such as the Indian Point plant on the Hudson River in New York. (GETTY IMAGES / MARIO TAMA)

He had focused international attention on the potential dangers of storing spent radioactive fuel at power plant sites, which happens to be what U.S. utilities do as well.

But he also exposed some of the tension in his position. There he was highlighting the hazards of nuclear power, promising action if additional controls became necessary at American plants, while serving an administration pursuing a nuclear growth strategy.

In addition, few people have played a bigger role than Jaczko over the past decade in impeding the permanent disposal site at Yucca Mountain, which is the industry's preferred solution to the nuclear waste question.

As appropriations director and science policy adviser to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Jaczko coordinated the Nevada Democrat's fight against the Yucca project. Without Yucca, the waste continues to pile up in the temporary storage pools. Since his appointment to the commission in 2005, Jaczko has pressed utilities to move more of the waste from storage ponds to concrete-and-steel casks, which he suggested could safely be stored on-site for up to three centuries. The power industry has resisted, worried that it would cost too much and eliminate political pressure for the government to take custody of radioactive waste.

Jaczko's blunt assessment of the conditions at the Japan utility was not welcomed by nuclear power backers in the United States, who had been urging Americans to wait for a thorough review of the Japanese accident before reaching

conclusions. The industry-backed Nuclear Energy Institute moved quickly to "clarify" the evacuation issue, releasing fact sheets that agreed the warning to U.S. citizens was "prudent" but stating that "this action should not be interpreted as a standard that should be applied to U.S. reactor emergency planning policy, specifically the use of a 50-mile zone."

Since Jaczko's Capitol Hill appearance, the five-member NRC agreed to examine the safety of America's 104 nuclear power reactors located in 31 states across the country. Those facilities also house 65,000 metric tons of radioactive waste, an estimated 76 percent of which is now warehoused in pools, according to the NEI. While federal regulators say the radioactive waste can be secured for a century at the nation's commercial nuclear generation sites, Jaczko's comments inevitably raise doubts about safety.

[cid:image002.gif@01CBEC55.2419B170]

The Plan for Yucca Mountain: Click here to view chart<<http://www.cq.com/graphics/weekly/2011/03/28/wr20110328-13nuclear-jaczko-cht1.pdf>>

Despite this history of conflict with the industry, the sharpest questions for Jaczko in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster have come from liberals already skeptical about nuclear power.

While briefing the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on March 16, Jaczko was scolded by Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, demanding answers about the safety of two plants in her state. "I'm looking to you for more leadership than I've gotten," she lectured. Before the House Energy and Commerce Committee earlier in the day, he faced a barrage of difficult questions from Edward J. Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat for whom Jaczko once worked as a congressional science fellow.

Markey later said in a telephone interview that he thinks Jaczko is "committed to improving the NRC transparency" and "lets the science speak for itself." He credited Jaczko with being "proactive" by initiating a review of how vulnerable U.S. reactors might be to earthquakes and the electricity outages that have plagued the Japanese facility.

"I think he is doing a very good job," Markey said. "But he's working hard to question a lot of the assumptions that people have about safety in the nuclear industry."

The Nation's Fears

[cid:image003.gif@01CBEC55.2419B170]

Radioactive Waste: Click here to view chart<<http://www.cq.com/graphics/weekly/2011/03/28/wr20110328-13nuclear-jaczko-cht3.pdf>>

Former NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve, who headed the commission during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, said the task facing Jaczko and his fellow commissioners is "trying to understand exactly what happened at the Japanese plants, what vulnerabilities they reveal, and what things, as a result, we need to re-examine and possibly change.

"In my view, you can't just quickly decide what the ultimate answer is," he said, adding that so far Jaczko "has been doing the right things."

Like government officials of the past who have been thrust into national crises after terrorist attacks, hurricanes or the financial market collapse, Jaczko faces the challenge of handling the nation's fears without sacrificing his own credibility. A week after the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, he said during a C-SPAN interview that the commission has "a program in place that would deal with the kinds of situations that we are seeing in Japan." But he also noted that what the Japanese are dealing with "is a very, very difficult situation and that there will be plenty of opportunity when this crisis is resolved to really figure out what happened and how we can all learn from it."

Reid's Prot?g?

[cid:image004.jpg@01CBEC55.2419B170]

EXPERT WITNESS: Jaczko takes his seat at a March 16 Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on the Japan crisis. (CQ/ SCOTT J. FERRELL)

Jaczko declined to be interviewed for this article. But his mentor Reid said he is the right man for the challenging job.

"Greg's entire career has been dedicated to applying science to public policy," Reid said in a statement. "His work in Congress and at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has improved the safety of nuclear power plants and is based on his demonstrated commitment to bringing all stakeholders to the table."

Jaczko, 40, owes his position as the NRC chairman to Reid's political clout and stubborn persistence. Jaczko is thin and lanky, an avid cyclist who was warned against biking to work by aides who feared the potential dangers of Washington's congested traffic. He grew up in Albany, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a doctorate in theoretical particle physics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He then headed to Washington to work as a congressional science fellow for Markey, one of Congress's most vocal critics of the nuclear industry.

Jaczko later joined Reid's staff and the fight against the Yucca Mountain repository. Congress in 1987 selected the location, which lies about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as the permanent disposal site for the utilities' radioactive nuclear waste. Opponents say the site is geologically unsuitable to contain the waste safely for thousands of years, but at the time, Nevada lacked the political wherewithal to derail the selection.

Reid has waged a bare-knuckled political fight against the Yucca facility, using his position to whittle away the project's annual budget and to block legislative efforts to hasten its completion. After he became minority leader in 2005, Reid struck a deal with President George W. Bush to nominate Jaczko to an open seat on the five-member NRC. To twist Bush's arm, Reid stalled Senate approval of 175 presidential nominees. To ease strenuous opposition from industry and Senate Republicans, the deal limited Jaczko to a single two-year term on the commission, as well as a promise that he would recuse himself from all Yucca matters for the first year.

Senate conservatives argued that Jaczko should permanently recuse himself from Yucca matters. Jaczko refused, telling Oklahoma Republican James. M. Inhofe, then the Senate Environment and Public Works chairman, that he was determined to show impartiality.

"My hope is that within one year, I will have demonstrated that absolutely I can be fair and objective," he said in 2005. During the recusal period, Jaczko steadfastly declined to discuss Yucca publicly, even refusing to answer a question on nuclear waste from Sen. Barack Obama during a hearing.

Despite the earlier agreement to limit Jaczko to two years on the NRC, Reid used his enhanced power as majority leader in 2007 to press Bush to nominate the former aide for a full five-year term. He was confirmed in 2008. After Obama won

the presidential election later that year, Reid persuaded the new president to designate Jaczko as the panel's chairman - and to put the brakes on the Yucca Mountain project by formally asking the NRC to withdraw its review of the licensing application in early 2010.

As a result, nuclear utilities found themselves appealing to the Jaczko-led NRC to prevent a shutdown of the Nevada facility. Jaczko's handling of the Yucca Mountain issue has drawn criticism from nuclear supporters in Congress, prompting bitter public charges of collusion with the administration to close the door on the project forever.

Last October, Jaczko instructed NRC staff to start closing down the Energy Department's license application for Yucca. Supporters of the project say the move was an attempt to sidestep a recommendation last June by an NRC administrative panel, which found that the Obama administration lacked legal authority to withdraw the application.

While that recommendation has given Yucca supporters faint hope that the project isn't dead, the decision is in legal limbo until the full NRC rules on it. As chairman, Jaczko decides when to issue a ruling - even though Republican commissioners publicly released their votes last fall.

The delay of a final decision by the NRC plays into the administration's hands in an ongoing federal lawsuit over whether the executive branch can cancel Yucca without congressional approval. During oral arguments last week, a panel of judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals suggested they may lack jurisdiction to decide the issue until the NRC issues a final ruling. Jaczko has given little indication of when - or even if - that may happen.

In an unusually blunt letter to Jaczko last fall, senior House Republicans suggested an "appearance of coordinated action between you" and the Energy Department. But Jaczko was largely given a pass on the Yucca flap during his Capitol Hill appearances earlier this month, when some of his biggest critics instead sought assurances about the safety of U.S. plants.

Storage Pool Concerns

[cid:image005.gif@01CBEC55.2419B170]

An Alternative for Storage: Click here to view chart<<http://www.cq.com/graphics/weekly/2011/03/28/wr20110328-13nuclear-jaczko-cht2.pdf>>

While Japanese officials initially downplayed the concern voiced by Jaczko on March 16, they later conceded that water in one of the pools was heating up and in danger of boiling off. The situation that Jaczko highlighted drew new attention to the dangers that spent-fuel pools on nuclear plant sites might pose in the event of natural disasters.

A 2003 report by the Government Accountability Office noted that NRC studies found that the risk of "widespread harm to human health from spent fuel arises from the remote possibility of a sustained loss of coolant in a spent fuel pool." That could result in a fire that would "disperse radioactive material across a wide area" and result in "200 early fatalities and thousands of latent cancer fatalities," the GAO report said. It added that a "catastrophic earthquake" or "loss of electrical power, which would shut down the pool cooling system," were among the events that could cause such an accident.

Anti-nuclear advocates were quick to point out that the spent-fuel pools at the 30 or so U.S. reactors with designs similar to the stricken Japanese generators are much more densely packed, containing by some estimates four or five times as much spent fuel.

"We're talking about some of the largest concentrations of radioactivity on the planet in these pools," said Robert Alvarez, a former Energy Department official and nuclear critic at the Institute for Policy Studies.

He said that for decades the NRC has allowed nuclear plant operators to stockpile the waste in the pools on the assumption that it would ultimately be transferred to a permanent disposal site. With Yucca off the table and an alternative perhaps decades away, critics say the regulators should require utilities to offload some waste to dry storage casks, which some maintain are safer from seismic threats.

Jaczko has also called for such requirements, telling an industry conference in 2008 that moving spent fuel from pools into dry casks was "the most clear-cut example of where additional safety margins can be gained."

But NRC officials say it's premature to suggest that the commission will zero in on the safety of the industry's nuclear fuel pools or consider the future of Yucca Mountain as it responds to the Japanese situation. The commission recently announced plans to conduct a short-term staff review of U.S. nuclear plant safety.

"We will work through all of this information methodically, systematically and carefully to determine what lessons can be drawn that might be applicable for consideration for changes in the U.S. safety regulatory structure," said NRC spokesman Eliot Brenner.

Nuclear's Future

[cid:image006.jpg@01CBEC55.2419B170]

WAITING: Political opposition has kept the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain from opening. (GETTY IMAGES / AFP / MAXIM KNIIAZKOV)

Meanwhile, nuclear regulators say the Japanese situation will not stop them from relicensing existing nuclear plants or prompt them to slow down review of proposals to build new nuclear reactors.

The NRC is also standing firm on its decision to allow the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant to continue operating for an additional 20 years, despite complaints by state officials and Vermont independent Sen. Bernard Sanders that the facility is unsafe. Vermont lawmakers say they will try to block the reactor's continued operations under state law.

U.S. nuclear industry executives predict that the NRC will beef up safety standards in response to Japan's disaster. New controls will raise the cost of operating nuclear power plants, a concern that could make utility companies rethink whether to continue operating existing nuclear plants or to move forward with plans to construct expensive new reactors.

"Let's not fool ourselves," said John Rowe, chairman of Exelon Corp., which owns more nuclear power plants than any other U.S. company. "We are going to spend a lot of money on new regulatory reviews, and we are going to face some kind of new requirements."

A week after the Japan accident, Rowe called a special phone briefing to assure his investors and the public that Exelon's reactors are safe and that he and other nuclear industry officials are taking seriously the Fukushima disaster. He ranked the episode in Japan as "clearly worse than the 1979 accident" at the Three Mile Island nuclear facility in Pennsylvania but not as bad as the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl.

Although Rowe isn't interested in building a new nuclear plant - he has long argued that it's too expensive - other industry executives are still weighing a nuclear future. All of the nation's nuclear power utilities are carefully monitoring

the steps that Jaczko and the commission take to guarantee that the U.S. nuclear power fleet is safe. So far, the NRC has refused to speculate on the policy changes that might result from the Japanese accident.

Other Obama administration officials have been more forthcoming. Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently said regulators are likely to consider the safety of the Indian Point nuclear plant near New York City, owned by Entergy Corp., a power-generating company that operates 11 U.S. commercial reactors, including Vermont Yankee.

"We're going to have to look at whether this reactor should remain," Chu told Fox News, although he added: "I don't want to make any - jump to some judgment about what we should do going forward."

Chu also suggested that regulators will steer new nuclear plants away from sites near large cities, although he showed no signs that the administration is backing off its broader support for nuclear power.

"Certainly, where we site reactors going forward will be different than where we might have sited them in the past," said Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist. "Any time there is a serious accident, we have to learn from those accidents and go forward."

For Further Reading: Japanese accident's impact on U.S. nuclear industry, CQ Weekly, p. 616; alternatives to Yucca Mountain, 2009 CQ Weekly, p. 966; short-term nuclear storage dilemma, 2006 CQ Weekly, p. 1147; Yucca selected as nuclear waste site, 1987 CQ Almanac, pp. 307-308.

Source: CQ Weekly

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 7:56 AM  
**To:** LIA08 Hoc  
**Subject:** documents Marty wanted overnight

I do not have remote access to WebEOC to track exact times, but this link is to our press release of 3/15 in support of the OPA action sent overnight

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1107/ML110740628.pdf>

the following link is to the NRC's press release 3/16 recommending a 50 mile evacuation for U.S. Citizens

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-050.pdf>

---

**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 11:38 PM  
**To:** Coggins, Angela  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Press person

I just talked to Ben Chang, the press POC on the ground at Embassy Tokyo.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 8:22 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Fw: Chairman Visit

Fyi

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Monninger, John  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Casto, Chuck; Dorman, Dan  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 20:19:52 2011  
**Subject:** Chairman Visit

I'm on an AF helicopter up to the site laydown area.

Kirk Foggie and Brook Smith are pulling together plans for the Chairmans visit. Preliminary indications are that the Ambassador may want the Chairman to make a statement / press release at the end of the visit. DCM Zumult confirming plans.

John Monninger

(b)(6)

BU/905

**From:** Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 6:19 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Brenner, Eliot; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** King, Daniel W COL PACOM, J01PA; (b)(6);  
Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov; Tom.Reynolds@hq.doe.gov; Hayden, Elizabeth; Robertson,  
Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA  
**Subject:** Re: NYT on reactor

Caitlin,

(b)(5)

Thanks much!  
Lydia

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Hayden, Caitlin <(b)(6)>  
**To:** 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov' <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>; Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** King, Daniel W COL PACOM, J01PA; (b)(6); 'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov'  
<Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov>; Reynolds, Tom <Tom.Reynolds@hq.doe.gov>; 'Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov'  
<Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 06:42:09 2011  
**Subject:** Re: NYT on reactor

(b)(5)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**To:** Hayden, Caitlin; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov' <Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov>; Reynolds, Tom; 'cwheelles@bechtel.com'  
<cwheelles@bechtel.com>; 'mmallen@bechtel.com' <mmallen@bechtel.com>; Hayden, Elizabeth  
<Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>; 'fcanavan@bechtel.com' <fcanavan@bechtel.com>  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 12:37:44 2011  
**Subject:** RE: NYT on reactor

Sorry, wasn't clear who was looking for what in the message.

(b)(5)

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:35 PM

To: Brenner, Eliot; (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6); 'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov'; Reynolds, Tom;  
'cwheelles@bechtel.com'; 'mmallen@bechtel.com'; Hayden, Elizabeth; 'fcanavan@bechtel.com'  
Subject: Re: NYT on reactor

Eliot: Appreciate all this info, (b)(5)  
(b)(5). Thanks! -CH

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
To: Hayden, Caitlin; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >  
Cc: (b)(6)  
'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov' <Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov>; Reynolds, Tom; 'Wheeless, Charlene'  
<cwheelles@bechtel.com>; 'Allen, Michelle' <mmallen@bechtel.com>; Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>;  
'Canavan, Francis' <fcanavan@bechtel.com>  
Sent: Sat Mar 26 12:30:56 2011  
Subject: RE: NYT on reactor

(b)(5)

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Rockville, MD

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:(b)(6)]  
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:15 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6); 'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov'; Reynolds, Tom; Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: Re: NYT on reactor

Lydia: I've copied colleagues from NRC and DOE who have the details about what their principals discussed. As I understand it, the discussions weren't terribly detailed but they can best characterize the questions and answers.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks! --Caitlin

----- Original Message -----

From: Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA <(b)(6)>  
To: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA <(b)(6)>; Hayden, Caitlin  
Cc: Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA <(b)(6)>; King, Daniel W COL PACOM, J01PA  
<(b)(6)>; HullRyde, Leslie CDR OSD PA <(b)(6)>  
Sent: Sat Mar 26 00:00:17 2011  
Subject: RE: NYT on reactor

Caitlin,

(b)(5)

Thanks very much!

Lydia

CAPT Lydia Robertson, USN  
PACOM Public Affairs  
Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii  
Ph: 808.477.1341  
Cell: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA [mailto:(b)(6)]  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 09:21 PM  
To: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; King, Daniel W COL PACOM, J01PA <(b)(6)>  
Cc: HullRyde, Leslie CDR OSD PA  
Subject: RE: NYT on reactor

Headed to our Update Brief for the admiral in 10 minutes.

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA [mailto:(b)(6)]  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:18 PM  
To: King, Daniel W COL PACOM, J01PA; Robertson, Lydia R CAPT PACOM, J01PA  
Cc: HullRyde, Leslie CDR OSD PA  
Subject: Fw: NYT on reactor

Lydia, Daniel,

Would you want to participate? If so, you could reach out directly to NYT ... Or we could have David Sanger (who we have worked with) reach out to you.

Just let us know.

All the best, Darryn

----- Original Message -----

From: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 08:22 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; HullRyde, Leslie CDR OSD PA  
Subject: NYT on reactor

Caitlin,

I will discuss with PACOM and we will let you know if they intend to reach out to NYT.

All the best,  
Darryn

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:(b)(6)]  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 07:27 PM  
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
Cc: Jensen, Robert R. (b)(6); Turner, Shawn (b)(6)  
Subject: NYT on reactor

Hi, guys! We understand that Matt Wald, Bill Broad, and David Sanger at the NYT are working on a big weekend story trying to re-construct what happened at the Fukushima reactor, to include U.S. assistance. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks! -CH

-----  
Caitlin Hayden

Deputy NSC Spokesperson

office: (b)(6) and (b)(6)

blackberry: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 6:19 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Jaczko, Gregory  
**Subject:** light reading  
**Attachments:** Seismic Questions for Incident Response 3-22-11 10 pm.pdf

Attached is the last seismic q/a I have. Far more detail than you need, but perhaps a sleep aid!

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 4:47 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: Nytimes reporter

Thanks to both. His name was familiar to me. I ask because he also called Bechtel and I have been working with them to try to leak out word of our having designed the pump Bechtel built.

Ok, time of all of us to nap some more!

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 4:44 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Re: Nytimes reporter

I recall the name, don't recall if I spoke to him or what the topic might have been.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 16:04:13 2011  
**Subject:** Nytimes reporter

Jim glanz. Anyone recall talking with him and, if so, about what?

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Checking in

(b)(5)

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 15:59:12 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Checking in

(b)(5)

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 15:30:07 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Checking in

(b)(5)

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** 'StricklerL@cbsnews.com' <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>  
**Cc:** Batkin, Joshua; McIntyre, David; Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 18:50:38 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Checking in

We have a congressional hearing in the morning. Will check about before or after, but after sounds more likely.

How much time do you think you need? Can you do it at/near the Hill?

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Strickler, Laura <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 18:44:27 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Checking in

Ok great, would next thursday be possible? Maybe in the morning? Thanks very much.

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
To: McIntyre, David <David.McIntyre@nrc.gov>; Strickler, Laura  
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 18:28:43 2011  
Subject: Re: Checking in

David/laura: I just heard from the boss. He will do the interview. All we need do now is work out timing.

Eliot Brenner  
Director of public affairs.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

From: McIntyre, David  
To: 'StricklerL@cbsnews.com' <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>  
Cc: Brenner, Eliot  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 18:08:49 2011  
Subject: Re: Checking in

Hi Laura. I did not get a definitive answer but I suspect it will be "no". We are always leery of commenting on issues that are in adjudication and this is still before the Commission and the Appeals Court.

David McIntyre  
NRC Office of Public Affairs  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
301-415-8200 (office)  
Sent from my BlackBerry, which is wholly respnsble for all typos.

---

From: Strickler, Laura <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>  
To: McIntyre, David  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 17:31:26 2011

Subject: Checking in

Hi Dave -

Just checking in on our request from earlier today, thanks very much,

Laura

Laura V. Strickler, Producer

CBS Evening News with Katie Couric

Desk: 202-457-1597

Cell: (b)(6)

[stricklerl@cbsnews.com](mailto:stricklerl@cbsnews.com) <[mailto:stricklerl@cbsnews.com](mailto:mailto:stricklerl@cbsnews.com)>

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 3:18 PM  
**To:** 'mmallen@bechtel.com'  
**Subject:** Re: Media Approach

Yes, we are in synch. If I get called, I will let you know.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Allen, Michelle <mmallen@bechtel.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 15:05:01 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

Eliot-  
Thanks for the update.

Would NRC prefer to wait until Monday to determine whether to proactively engage the media, depending on what happens with the system?

As any media outreach would be a collaborative effort, just wanted to ensure we are in alignment.

Thank you  
Michelle

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Sat 3/26/2011 9:02 AM  
**To:** Wheeless, Charlene; Allen, Michelle; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

I was just monitoring our twice-daily conference call. Word was the Japanese were doing more training at Yakota (sp?) and the Bechtel equipment would not be in place and ready to use until late Sunday, pushing startup into Monday Japan time, Sunday night here.

Eliot

---

**From:** Wheeless, Charlene [mailto:cwheeles@bechtel.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:47 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Allen, Michelle; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

I don't have any problem with Monday. I should hear from one of our guys later tonight regarding just how much time we might have.

Best,  
C

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:35 PM  
**To:** Wheelless, Charlene; Allen, Michelle; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

Also, and this is entirely subject to events in Japan, engineering this to break Monday would give me more staff to deal with it. Selfish, and I know the news is not always convenient. I spent 20 years as a wire service guy.

eliot

---

**From:** Wheelless, Charlene [mailto:cwheeles@bechtel.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:33 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Allen, Michelle; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

Thanks. Just use the angle that global companies and partners are stepping up in times of crisis, and here's just one example...

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:16 PM  
**To:** Allen, Michelle; Hayden, Elizabeth; Wheelless, Charlene  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** RE: Media Approach

I'm ok. I would ask Beth to be sure we have someone from our group identified and available over the weekend to do interviews. I am on duty and will be working our end of things Saturday and Sunday.

---

**From:** Allen, Michelle [mailto:mmallen@bechtel.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Wheelless, Charlene  
**Cc:** Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** Re: Media Approach

Eliot and Beth-  
Here is a proposed media approach for securing coverage of the design and the system.  
Please let me know your thoughts.  
Thank you.  
Michelle

### **Media Proposal- Japan Temporary Fuel Cooling Pool**

#### **Goal:**

Secure positive coverage of NRC and Bechtel's innovative and rapid response to the situation at the Japanese nuclear plant

**Timing:** Immediately

**Objectives:**

- Highlight the rapid response
- Highlight the innovation used to create the system

#### **Strategy:**

Proactively engage New York Times and Reuters for coverage as reporters with both organizations have contacted Bechtel for information about the events in Japan. Reuters has asked for information about the system, which was the subject of media reports in Australia. The New York Times reporter has the capabilities for accurately conveying the story.

The story will be positioned as an example of the innovative ways entities are working together to help the people of Japan in the time of crisis.

The reporters will be provided with the following elements to help tell the story:

- Interviews with NRC and Bechtel representatives to:
  - Describe the collaboration
  - Explain the innovation used to create the system
  - Illustrate the rapid pace at which events unfolded
- Initial sketch of proposed system
- Final schematics or illustration of system
- Photos of equipment from USAF

#### **Conclusion:**

Offering the story now to select media outlets allows for the story to be told in a respectful way. The story will focus on the innovation, rapid response and collaboration; at this point- it is irrelevant if the system works. The story is about two teams that worked together in an effort to help the people of Japan.

Michelle Allen  
Bechtel Corporate Communications  
Media Relations  
Office: 1-301-228-8946  
Cell: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Wheelless, Charlene [mailto:cwheeles@bechtel.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:47 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Allen, Michelle; Canavan, Francis  
**Subject:** Media Approach

Eliot,

Michelle and Francis are fine-tuning an approach we might undertake for proactively, but conservatively, pitching this to the media. As soon as we have something, we'll send it along to you. I want to confirm however, that we are both in agreement on finding an appropriate way to share the story vs doing nothing. Both avenues have their merits. We had lots of energy around this yesterday, but my sense today is that you guys might be rethinking? Please advise as we will follow your lead. Either way, we still need to agree to how we will handle reactive media/media calls. My takeaway yesterday was that we will answer questions that are presented to us (about our work only) and then refer the reporter(s) to you all for any further comment. Are you still in agreement with that approach or would you like to take a different approach?

Thanks,  
Charlene  
Charlene A. Wheelless  
Principal Vice President, Corporate Affairs

Bechtel Corporation  
301.228.8981  
(b)(6) (mobile)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: NYTimes

Thanks.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Ivonne Couret <(b)(6)>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Sat Mar 26 14:12:50 2011  
**Subject:** Re: NYTimes

There were many reporters from the post, but I forward request to either Roger, Scott or Dave and on occasion you. If he called Friday perhaps he spoke to Veronika. Looking at my folder Tom Zeller, Tom Kaplan were the latest.

On Mar 26, 2011 1:44 PM, "Brenner, Eliot" <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)> wrote:

>

> Do you recall hearing from a guy named David Sanger of the NYTimes?

Bu/911

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:13 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** here's your chance

To write the nastiest questions you can think of to prepare the chairman for his CBS interview. Anything you had ever wanted to ask ....

Contributions welcome.

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 9:48 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Letter of Recommendation

(b)(6)

On Sat, Mar 26, 2011 at 9:42 AM, Brenner, Eliot <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)> wrote:

I haven't watched TV news other than the CNN stuff playing in the background since day 1. Yes, it is ugly. Full employment for me!

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 9:12 AM  
**To:** eliot brenner  
**Subject:** Re: Letter of Recommendation

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Sat, Mar 26, 2011 at 8:19 AM, eliot brenner <(b)(6)> wrote:

I replied from work because I was trying to read through work email in preparation for a japan call.

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 7:52 AM  
**To:** eliot brenner  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation

Eliot:

(b)(6)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 7:03 AM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Re: Cbs

I think we were talking about thursday. Let me check.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: McIntyre, David  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 23:07:16 2011  
Subject: Re: Cbs

Sorry. At 630 I should have heard this. (b)(6)

David McIntyre  
NRC Office of Public Affairs  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
301-415-8200 (office)  
Sent from my BlackBerry, which is wholly respnsble for all typos.

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot  
To: McIntyre, David  
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 18:25:56 2011  
Subject: Cbs

Josh is calling you to say jaczko will do cbs. If yor get this, please try to reacxh the producer. Otherwise I will dig thru my blackberry to find info and reach her tonight.

Also, call me on something else. Saturday is fine Eliot Brenner Director, Office of Public Affairs US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

BU/914

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**From:** Dianne Davis <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:08 AM  
**To:** eliot brenner  
**Subject:** I enjoyed reading the article about your career and life.

Very interesting!! It's hard to imagine what you are going thru now. You have to give alot of positive thinking into an area that alot of people want to withdraw from, because of Japan. Someone has to do it though, and you are well equipped. Best o' Luck Eliot. Please stay in touch if you can.

Dianne

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 10:07 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Op center call tonight

(b)(5)

**From:** Thanks for staying! <efolio@marriott.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 9:47 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Your Mar 16, 2011 - Mar 17, 2011 stay at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Thank you for choosing the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center for your recent stay.

As requested, below is a billing summary or adjustment for your stay. **If you have questions about your bill**, please contact us at (866) 435-7627 or mbs.customer.svc@marriott.com.

Make another reservation on Marriott.com >>



You have elected to receive eFolio email messages after every stay.

Modify your email preferences >>

#### Summary of Your Stay

**Hotel:** Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
5701 Marinelli Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20852  
USA  
(301) 822-9200

**Guest:** ZZ/BRENNER/ELIOT

(b)(6)

**Dates of stay:** Mar 16, 2011 - Mar 17, 2011  
**Guest number:** 8788  
**Rewards number:** (b)(6)

**Room number:** 1018  
**Group number:**

Date	Description	Reference	Charges	Credits
03/16/11	TR ROOM	1018, 1	56.00	
03/16/11	ROOM TAX	1018, 1	3.36	
03/16/11	OCC TAX	1018, 1	3.92	
03/16/11	TELECOMM	WFB	0.00	
03/17/11	Payment - Cash	OSTAT		0.00
03/23/11	Payment - Voucher 22299481	22299481		63.28

**Total balance**

**0.00 USD**

Was that the best night's sleep you've ever had? How about a repeat performance at your place!



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Bu/917

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**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:34 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Rtrs - NRC to provide update on Japan situation?

Hi Eliot:

I am working the night shift tonight at Reuters. I'm just wondering **\*for planning purposes only\*** whether you think the NRC might be providing updates or information on the situation in Japan tonight, or on the weekend ?

Best thanks,

Roberta

---

**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

**Reuters**

Phone: 202 898 8376

Mobile: (b)(6)

[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

This email was sent to you by Thomson Reuters, the global news and information company. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifically states them to be the views of Thomson Reuters.

BU/918

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**From:** Lyons, Peter <Peter.Lyons@Nuclear.Energy.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:31 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: hearings next week?

Thanks Eliot  
pete

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:17 PM  
**To:** Lyons, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: hearings next week?

(b)(5)

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lyons, Peter [mailto:Peter.Lyons@Nuclear.Energy.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 10:18 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** hearings next week?

Eliot/Josh

I'm participating in three hearings/briefings next week - I believe I'm with NRC at each of them (SENR, SEWD, HEWD), with Greg twice and EDO once. Japan is either the focus of the event or likely to be a secondary focus.

(b)(5)

Thanks  
pete

### **1. What mitigative measures are required in the event of large fires at a plant?**

Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, NRC required all nuclear plant licensees to take additional steps to protect public health and safety in the event of a large fire or explosion. In accordance with NRC regulations, all nuclear power plants are required to maintain or restore cooling for the reactor core, containment building, and spent fuel pool under the circumstances associated with a large fire or explosion. These requirements include using existing or readily available equipment and personnel, having strategies for firefighting, operations to minimize fuel damage, and actions to minimize radiological release to the environment. In general, mitigative strategies are plans, procedures, and pre-staged equipment whose intent is to minimize the effects of adverse events. If needed, these mitigative strategies could also be used during natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and tsunamis.

### **2. When did these mitigative measures become required?**

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, NRC issued an Interim Compensatory Measures Order that required all nuclear plant licensees to take additional steps to protect public health and safety in the event of a large fire or explosion. After completing the NRC rulemaking process, the requirements of this NRC Order were formally converted to regulations in 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2). The regulations took effect in March 2009.

### **3. How do we know these will work/be effective?**

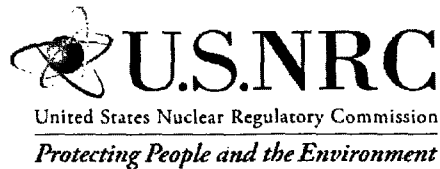
The NRC performed a comprehensive review that looked at what could happen in the event of a large fire or explosion at a nuclear power plant. As part of this review, the NRC conducted detailed engineering studies of a number of nuclear power plants. These studies included national experts from Department of Energy laboratories, who used state-of-the-art experiments, structural analyses, and fire analyses. The studies performed during this review confirmed that current operating nuclear plants are robust. In addition, operating reactor licensees were required to assess site-specific conditions and develop mitigation strategies to protect the reactor core, containment building, and spent fuel pool at each nuclear power plant. The NRC evaluated the strategies for each operating reactor licensee and issued a safety evaluation report to document the commitments to implement these mitigation strategies. Due to the highly sensitive nature for plant security contained in these reports, they are not available to the public.

### **4. Has any plant ever had to employ them?**

The NRC is not aware of any plant that has needed to employ these mitigative measures in response to an actual event.

**5. Are they regularly tested/inspected?**

All mitigative measures have been implemented by nuclear plant licensees and were inspected by the NRC before the end of 2008. In accordance with NRC regulations, all nuclear plants are required to maintain equipment and procedures that support these mitigative measures. A variety of routine NRC inspections address selected aspects of these mitigative measures, but the most comprehensive NRC inspection of this area is a triennial fire protection inspection program. Every 3 years, NRC inspectors who are knowledgeable in the areas of fire protection and reactor operations conduct an onsite inspection of the storage, maintenance, and testing of equipment related to these mitigative measures.



## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Japan Nuclear Crisis:**

### **“Can It Happen Here?”**

**1. Can the natural disaster that initiated the Japanese nuclear crisis happen in the United States?**

The events that have occurred in Japan are the result of a combination of an extremely large earthquake followed by a massive tsunami. Based on the geology of the U.S., this combination of extreme events could only occur in one area of the U.S., and the single plant in that location is far inland and subject to significantly lower ground motion than that seen at the Fukushima plants. For these reasons, it is highly unlikely that a similar event could occur in the United States.

**2. I live near a nuclear power plant similar to the ones having trouble in Japan. How can we now be confident that this plant won't experience a similar problem?**

All U.S. nuclear power plants are built to withstand environmental hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis. Even those plants that are located outside of areas with extensive seismic activity are designed for safety in the event of such a natural disaster. The NRC requires that safety-significant structures, systems, and components be designed to take into account the most severe natural phenomena historically reported for the site and surrounding area – even very rare and extreme earthquakes and tsunami. The NRC is confident that the robust design of these plants makes it highly unlikely that a similar event could occur in the United States.

**3. How many plants are located in seismic areas?**

Although we often think of the US as having “active” and “non-active” earthquake zones, earthquakes can actually happen almost anywhere. Seismologists typically separate the United States into low-, moderate-, and high-seismicity zones. The NRC requires that every plant be designed for site-specific ground motions that are appropriate for their location. In addition, the NRC has specified a minimum ground shaking level to which the plants must be designed. See our [Fact Sheet](#) on seismic issues for more information.

**4. Has this crisis changed your opinion about the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants?**

No. The NRC remains confident that the design of U.S. nuclear power plants ensures the continued protection of public health and safety and the environment.

**5. With all this happening, how can the NRC continue to approve new nuclear power plants?**

It is premature to speculate what, if any, effect the events in Japan will have on the licensing of new nuclear power plants.

**6. What is the NRC doing in response to the situation in Japan?**

The NRC has taken a number of actions:

- a. Since the beginning of the event, the NRC has continuously manned its Operations Center in Rockville, MD in order to gather and examine all available information as part of the effort to analyze the event and understand its implications both for Japan and the United States.
- b. A team of 11 officials from the NRC with expertise in boiling water nuclear reactors have deployed to Japan as part of a U.S. International Agency for International Development (USAID) team.
- c. The NRC has spoken with its counterpart agency in Japan, offering the assistance of U.S. technical experts.
- d. The NRC is coordinating its actions with other Federal agencies as part of the U.S. government response.

**7. What other U.S. agencies are involved, and what are they doing?**

The entire federal family is responding to this event. The NRC is closely coordinating its efforts with the White House, DOE, DOD, USAID, and others. The U.S. government is providing whatever support requested by the Japanese government.

**8. What else can go wrong?**

The NRC is continuously monitoring the developments at the nuclear power plants in Japan. Circumstances are constantly evolving and it would be inappropriate to speculate on how this situation might develop over the coming days.

**9. What is the worst-case scenario?**

In a nuclear emergency, the most important action is to ensure the nuclear fuel in the reactor core and the spent fuel pool is covered with water to provide cooling to remove any heat from the fuel rods. Without adequate cooling, the fuel rods will melt. Should the final containment structure fail, radiation from these melting fuel rods would be

released to the atmosphere and additional protective measures may be necessary depending on factors such as prevailing wind patterns.

**10. The United States has troops in Japan and has sent ships to help the relief effort – are they in danger from the radiation?**

The Department of Defense is the appropriate agency to provide information regarding its personnel.

**11. I saw a news report that said my local nuclear power plant ranked high on your list of plants most vulnerable to earthquakes. Is that true?**

The NRC does not rank plants according to seismic risk or vulnerability. This “ranking” was developed by a reporter using partial information and we believe an even more partial understanding of how we evaluate plants for seismic risk. Each plant is evaluated individually according to the geology of its site, not by a “one-size-fits-all” model – therefore such rankings or comparisons are highly misleading.

We are also frequently asked whether Plant A can withstand a quake of magnitude X. This sounds like a yes-or-no question, but again, it’s not that simple. Nuclear plants are designed to withstand a certain level of “ground shaking,” to use a technical term. But the way the ground shakes in an earthquake is a factor of the magnitude and the distance from the epicenter, among other things. So we can’t give a simple answer to such a simple question.

**12. Are nuclear power plants along the coasts vulnerable to tsunami?**

Large tsunami such as the one that hit Japan typically are caused by “subduction” faults, where one tectonic plate slides under another. There is only one such fault near the U.S. coastline – off the northern part of the West Coast, from northern California up past Oregon and Washington. There are no coastal nuclear power plants in this region. The closest plant, in central California, is the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. It is well protected against tsunami.

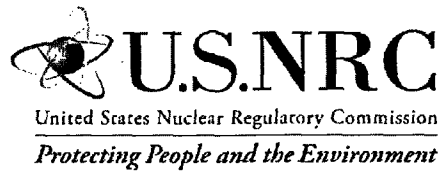
Along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Coast, storm surge from hurricanes generally poses a greater threat to nuclear power plants than tsunami. The plants in these regions are well protected against hurricane storm surge.

**13. Other countries have ordered their nuclear power plants to shut down in the wake of the Japan crisis until they can be determined to be safe. Why isn’t the NRC taking similar action?**

The NRC is confident that U.S. nuclear plants are safe and that there is no need to shut them down. However, events such as the Japan crisis often have lessons to offer that can help us improve our oversight and regulation of the country’s nuclear power plants. As President Obama said on March 17:

*"Our nuclear power plants have undergone exhaustive study, and have been declared safe for any number of extreme contingencies. But when we see a crisis like the one in Japan, we have a responsibility to learn from this event, and to draw from those lessons to ensure the safety and security of our people. That's why I've asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do a comprehensive review of the safety of our domestic nuclear plants in light of the natural disaster that unfolded in Japan."*

The NRC intends to conduct such a review as soon as possible.



## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Japan Nuclear Crisis**

### **“What Do I Need to Know to Protect Myself?”**

#### **1. Is there a danger of radiation making it to the United States?**

In response to nuclear emergencies, the NRC works with other U.S. agencies to monitor radioactive releases and predict their path. The NRC continues to monitor information regarding wind patterns near the Japanese nuclear power plants. While it is possible U.S. radiation monitoring equipment will detect an increase, we do not expect harmful levels of radiation to reach the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska, or U.S. territories in the Pacific.

#### **2. Is the U.S. government tracking the radiation released from the Japanese plants?**

Yes. A number of U.S. agencies are involved in monitoring and assessing radiation including the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and NRC. Questions about the domestic monitoring effort should be addressed to the Department of Energy at 202-586-4940. The EPA has posted information about its monitoring efforts.

#### **3. Has the government set up radiation monitoring stations to track the release?**

Yes. EPA is utilizing its existing nationwide radiation monitoring system, RadNet, to monitor continuously the nation's air. EPA also regularly monitors drinking water, milk and precipitation for environmental radiation. EPA has stated that it plans to work with its federal partners to deploy additional monitoring capabilities to parts of the western United States and U.S. territories.

#### **4. The radiation “plume” seems to be going out to sea – what is the danger of it reaching Alaska? Hawaii? The west coast?**

See response to Question 1.

#### **5. Should I be taking potassium iodide (KI) or other protective measures?**

At this time, the NRC does not believe protective measures are necessary in the United States. We do not expect any U.S. states or territories to experience harmful levels of radioactivity that would warrant taking protective measures. In the event circumstances change, U.S. residents should listen to the protective action decisions of their states and counties. These protective action decisions could include sheltering, evacuation, or

taking potassium iodide. The NRC will provide technical assistance to the states should they request it.

**6. What are the risks to my children?**

See response to Question 5.

**7. My family has planned a vacation to Hawaii/Alaska/Seattle next week – is it safe to go, or should we cancel our plans?**

The NRC does not expect that residents of the United States or its territories are at any risk of exposure to harmful levels of radiation resulting from the events in Japan. Any changes to travel are a personal decision. The NRC is not aware of any travel restrictions within the United States or its territories.

**8. What are the short-term and long-term effects of exposure to radiation?**

The NRC does not expect that residents of the United States or its territories are at any risk of exposure to harmful levels of radiation resulting from the events in Japan.

On a daily basis, people are exposed to naturally occurring sources of radiation, such as from the sun, and man-made radiation, such as medical X-rays. The resulting effects are dependent on the strength and type of radiation as well as the duration of exposure. See our Fact Sheet on the biological effects of radiation

**9. I am traveling to Asia (not Japan). Should I adjust my travel plans to avoid flying through plume or being contaminated once on the ground?**

You should consult the State Department for warnings or advisories on international travel.

**10. What is the official agency to report radiation numbers and what is the public contact?**

NRC regulations require nuclear power plants to report any radiation doses detected at the plant that could be harmful to the public. This would include doses that are generated by the plant or by an external source. During an event in the United States, it is the state's responsibility to provide protective action decisions for public health and safety. For this incident, the Japanese are responsible for reporting the public dose; nevertheless, should radiation doses be detected within the United States, it would still

be the state's responsibility to provide protective action decisions for public health and safety. For questions regarding the federal monitoring effort, contact the Department of Energy at 202-586-4940.

**11. Where would I get IOSAT Potassium Iodide if my city should experience fallout from the Japanese nuclear disaster? Is this the right precaution or is there anything else that can be done to protect myself?**

We do not expect any U.S. states or territories to experience harmful levels of radioactivity. As such, we do not believe that there is any need for residents of the United States to take potassium iodide. U.S. residents should listen to the protective action decisions by their states and counties. If necessary, protective action decisions could include actions such as sheltering, evacuating, or taking potassium iodide.

For more information on the use of potassium iodide, click [here](#).

Additional information is available from the [Food and Drug Administration](#).

**12. My loved one is overseas, how do I find out if he or she is ok?**

We are directing public inquiries with regard to concern for loved ones overseas to the State Department, Consular Services at 202-647-7004.

[updated 3/18/11, at 5:20 pm EDT]

G:\Crisis Communication\Japan Quake and Tsunami\FAQ What Do I Need To Know.docx

# OPA

## TALKING POINTS

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### JAPAN NUCLEAR SITUATION

As of 3/24/2011 3:30 PM

Updates in Red

#### CONTENTS

1. The Safety of U.S. Nuclear Power Plants
2. Monitoring Radiation in the United States
3. The Situation in Japan

## **PART 1: THE SAFETY OF U.S. NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS**

- The NRC is always looking to learn information that can be applied to U.S. reactors and we will analyze the information that comes from this incident. President Obama has asked the agency to conduct a comprehensive review of the safety of U.S. nuclear plants; the agency will do so.
- The NRC issued an Information Notice on March 18 to all of its operating nuclear power plants describing the effects of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami on Japanese nuclear power plants. The purpose of the Information Notice is to inform the plants of the most recent information available to the NRC. The NRC expects U.S. nuclear power plants will review the entire notice to determine how it applies to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate.
- U.S. nuclear power plants are built to withstand environmental hazards, including earthquakes. Even those plants that are located outside of areas with extensive seismic activity are designed for safety in the event of such a natural disaster.
- The NRC requires that safety-significant structures, systems, and components be designed to take into account the most severe natural phenomena historically reported for the site and surrounding area. The NRC then adds a margin for error to account for the limitations on historical data. In other words, U.S. nuclear power plants are designed to be safe based on historical data to predict the area's maximum credible earthquake.
- In response to MSNBC.com report ranking US NPPs according to vulnerability to earthquakes: The NRC does not rank nuclear power plants according to their vulnerability to earthquakes. This "ranking" was developed by an MSNBC reporter using partial information and an even more partial understanding of how we evaluate plants for seismic risk. Each plant is evaluated individually according to the geology

of its site, not by a "one-size-fits-all" model - therefore such rankings or comparisons are highly misleading.

- In the 1980s and 1990s, the NRC required several changes to the BWR Mark I containments at U.S. plants to ensure they could continue to deal with severe events. The first issue involved the design's large circular tube, or "torus," which holds enough water to safely condense the large volumes of steam that could be released during a severe event. The NRC became aware in the mid-late 1970s that designers might have underestimated the forces the torus would have to withstand during an event. The NRC laid out an appropriate generic approach to resolving the issue in August 1982, and individual reactors carried out their plant-specific torus reinforcement efforts.
- The second issue involved the potential for containment failure following an extended loss of decay heat removal capability. Under the Mark I Containment Performance Improvement program that ran from the late 1980s into the early 1990s, all Mark I BWRs operating at that time installed hardened vent systems to provide an additional decay heat removal capability to protect against containment overpressure failure. The containment vent system could also be used to control hydrogen concentrations in containment. Two units, Browns Ferry 1 and 3, were in extended shutdown at that time, and hardened vents were installed before those reactors restarted. In addition most plants provided an alternate water injection capability that is independent of normal and emergency power supplies and enhanced the reliability of the automatic depressurization system to reduce the likelihood of a challenge to containment. Furthermore, in 2003, the Commission issued the "Hydrogen Rule" (10CFR50.44) that required all BWR Mark I plants to operate in an inert atmosphere to preclude the possibility of a hydrogen explosions in containment.
- The NRC recommendation related to a 50-mile evacuation zone for Americans near the affected nuclear power plants in Japan is consistent with the same kind of approach that

would be used in the United States should a comparable, although extremely unlikely, event take place here.

- In November 1976, a federal task force was formed to look at salient emergency planning issues for U.S. nuclear power plants. Out of that comprehensive evaluation came a recommendation that a 10-mile-radius EPZ would assure that “prompt and effective actions can be taken to protect the public in the event of an accident” at a plant. This was based on research showing the most significant impacts of an accident would be expected in the immediate vicinity of a plant and therefore any initial protective actions, such as evacuations or sheltering in place, should be focused there. That does not mean the protective actions could not expand beyond the 10-mile radius. Rather, emergency planners have always known such actions could be necessary if the situation warranted it. (See NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP-1.)
- Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, NRC required all nuclear plant licensees to take additional steps to protect public health and safety in the event of a large fire or explosion. In accordance with NRC regulations, all nuclear power plants are required to maintain or restore cooling for the reactor core, containment building, and spent fuel pool under the circumstances associated with a large fire or explosion. These requirements include using existing or readily available equipment and personnel, having strategies for firefighting, operations to minimize fuel damage, and actions to minimize radiological release to the environment. In general, mitigative strategies are plans, procedures, and pre-staged equipment whose intent is to minimize the effects of adverse events. If needed, these mitigative strategies could also be used during natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and tsunamis.

## **PART 2: MONITORING RADIATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

- The NRC is working closely with our federal partners to monitor radiation releases from the Japanese nuclear power plants. Given the results of the monitoring and distance between Japan and Hawaii, Alaska, U.S. Pacific Territories and the U.S. West Coast, the NRC expects the U.S. to avoid any harmful levels of radioactivity. Reports of radiation being detected in the United States are all far below levels that would present a health risk. Additional questions regarding monitoring of the radioactive release should be referred to DOE at 202 586 4940.
- We are aware that minute amounts of radioactive elements have been detected at the very sensitive monitoring equipment at a number of privately owned nuclear plants. The US Government is looking at the best vehicle for reporting to the public this and any other data gathered by government. Nothing detected so far comes anywhere near a level that might concern us. We remain convinced there will be no health impact on the United States.
- The Department of Energy has been designated the lead agency for communicating information to the states regarding monitoring of radiation heading toward or over the United States. The DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (National Atmospheric Release Assessment Center) is monitoring weather patterns over the Pacific Ocean. The Environmental Protection Agency maintains air monitoring stations throughout the country and has reinforced its monitoring effort. DOE will provide aerial monitoring. Questions about this effort should be directed to DOE at 202 586 4940.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has increased its radiation monitoring in the western U.S. Data from the EPA's RadNet is available on the EPA's website.

- [Only if specifically asked] The NRC is aware that Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California, among others, have detected a very low level of radiation. The site believes that the source of the radiation is likely the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. The amounts detected are barely detectable on the instruments and pose no danger to public health and safety. The NRC continues to believe, based on all available information, that no harmful levels of radiation will reach U.S. territory. This information has been shared with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additional questions regarding monitoring of the radioactive release should be referred to DOE at 202 586 4940.
- In accordance with established protocols, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employs several types of radiation detection equipment in its operations at both air and sea ports, and uses this equipment, along with specific operational protocols, to resolve any security or safety risks that are identified with inbound travelers and cargo. Out of an abundance of caution, CBP has issued field guidance reiterating its operational protocols and directing field personnel to specifically monitor maritime and air traffic from Japan. CBP will continue to evaluate the potential risks posed by radiation contamination on inbound travelers and cargo and will adjust its detection and response protocols, in coordination with its interagency partners, as developments warrant.

### **PART 3: THE SITUATION IN JAPAN**

- As of Sunday, March 20, 2011, the NRC continues to monitor the nuclear crisis in Japan stemming from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. NRC's top priorities are the continued assessment of radiological conditions, dose predictions, and protective action recommendations. This effort focuses primarily on conditions in Japan around the vicinity of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The NRC is also working with DOE to model the flow of radiation across the Pacific Ocean toward the United States.
- A team of 10 NRC experts continues to assist Japanese efforts in Tokyo as part of a USAID-sponsored assistance effort. [If asked: One team member fell ill and returned to the US. Numbers in the team and names change; please check if asked.]
- The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the situation in Japan at a public meeting on Monday, March 21, 2011. A transcript for the public commission meeting held yesterday has been posted. The meeting included an overview of NRC actions related to the Japanese emergency and the possible short- and long-term activities for the NRC. The transcript can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/recent/2011/>. And the slides from the meeting are located at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/slides/2011/20110321/staff-slides-03212011-meeting-rev1.pdf>.
- Chairman Jaczko gave opening remarks at the meeting. He said, in part, "We have a responsibility to the American people to undertake a systematic and methodical review of the safety of our own domestic nuclear facilities, in light of the natural disaster and the resulting nuclear emergency in Japan. Beginning to examine all available information is an essential part of our effort to analyze the event and understand its impact on Japan and implications for the United States. Our focus is always on keeping plants and radioactive materials in this country safe and secure."

A copy of his full opening remarks can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-054.pdf>

- Based on calculations performed by NRC experts, we continue to believe that it is appropriate for U.S. residents within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate. Our recommendation is based on NRC guidelines for public safety that would be used in the United States under similar circumstances.
- The 10-mile EPZ reflects the area where projected doses from design basis accidents at nuclear power plants would not exceed the EPA's protective action guidelines, and we are confident that it would be adequate even for severe accidents. However, the 10-mile zone was always considered a base for emergency response that could be expanded if the situation warranted. The situation in Japan, with four reactors experiencing exceptional difficulties simultaneously, creates the need to expand the EPZ beyond the normal 10-mile radius, based on our limited data and conservative assumptions.
- The NRC is closely monitoring information about the spent fuel pools as well as radiation levels at the Japanese nuclear power plants. Given the totality of the situation, the NRC's recommendation for U.S. residents within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate remains unchanged. That recommendation was based on actual radiation levels in the nuclear complex.
- The Japanese government has formally asked for U.S. assistance in responding to nuclear power plant cooling issues triggered by an earthquake and tsunami on March 11.
- The NRC is coordinating its actions with other federal agencies as part of the U.S. government response. The NRC's headquarters Operations Center was activated at the beginning of the event and has been monitoring the situation on a 24-hour basis ever since.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:15 PM  
**To:** 'Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com'  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

Thanks.

---

**From:** Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com [mailto:Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:14 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

Good luck. If I run across anyone else, I will holler. Feel free to tap

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

*Craig Nesbit*  
*Vice President, Communications*  
*Exelon Generation*  
*630.657.4208*  
*Craig.Nesbit@ExelonCorp.com*

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:05 PM  
**To:** Nesbit, Craig:(GenCo)  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

I just need an extra body – someone senior, with knowledge of nuclear and hopefully regulation – to help with the load. I am probably going to have to assign one person full-time to work with the group doing the official reviews and reports, and need either someone for that job or to fill in behind and take up the slack in one of our subject areas.

eliot

---

**From:** Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com [mailto:Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

Can you tell me what the project is? Or is it a secret at this point?

*Craig Nesbit*  
*Vice President, Communications*  
*Exelon Generation*  
*630.657.4208*  
*Craig.Nesbit@ExelonCorp.com*

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:53 PM  
**To:** Nesbit, Craig:(GenCo)  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

Thanks. We're pretty small and I think I can convince the chairman to let me do a contract hire that's outside of our FTE limits. I've got Jan coming back in your region, ken clark coming back on in Atlanta, and a couple of other 90-day temporaries, but would like a few more options because as the regulator this is going to drag on a long while.

Eliot

---

**From:** Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com [mailto:Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:48 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

(b)(6)

*Craig Nesbit*  
*Vice President, Communications*  
*Exelon Generation*  
*630.657.4208*  
*[Craig.Nesbit@ExelonCorp.com](mailto:Craig.Nesbit@ExelonCorp.com)*

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:23 PM  
**To:** Nesbit, Craig:(GenCo)  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

I am kicking around the idea of a one-year temporary hire. I have one possible candidate locally and would like to pitch (b)(6). What were the "other options" you have.

---

**From:** Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com [mailto:Craig.Nesbit@exeloncorp.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 11:50 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: phone number

Eliot,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

cell

[rickkimble@nc.rr.com](mailto:rickkimble@nc.rr.com)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:33 AM  
**To:** Nesbit, Craig:(GenCo)  
**Subject:** phone number

Have you got a contact on the fellow from Progress you took on short term up in the Philly area. I am suffering a blackout on his name because of sensory overload.

Thanks.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:12 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** oh yeah...

I talked with craig nesbitt and he gave me a number of names for possible longer term employment. We can talk Monday about that.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:11 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** tnts

**SPENT FUEL POOLS AND PLANT SECURITY** – A reporter for the Huffington Post called with several questions relating to power plant security and spent fuel pools. He was specifically interested in industry's insistence that it needed extensions to implement our new security regulations as well as mitigative measures ordered by NRC for pools.

**RADIATION MONITORING** – An Associated Press reporter from San Francisco was playing catchup with the LA Times article about EPA's RadNet monitors being out of service. She seemed to think NRC relied on those monitors and that the US population was unprotected as a result. We tried to explain rad monitoring at the plants and how licensees and local authorities would deploy field teams to monitor any radiation releases during a power plant event.

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
*Protecting People & the Environment*

BU/922

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**Full Name:** Hayden, Caitlin  
**Last Name:** Hayden  
**First Name:** Caitlin

**E-mail:** (b)(6)  
**E-mail Display As:** Hayden, Caitlin

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:52 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

Ok Will do.

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
[Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov](mailto:Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:44 PM  
**To:** Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

(b)(5)

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**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:37 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Batkin, Joshua; Clark, Lisa; Coggins, Angela; Clark, Lisa  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

Have not heard from anyone else re CBS interview. My views below. I have no idea about Japan discussion in Tues mtg, but will check with Tom or Michael to see what they think.

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
[Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov](mailto:Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:31 PM  
**To:** Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua; Clark, Lisa; Coggins, Angela; Clark, Lisa  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

Any definitive answer on this?

Also, networks are clamoring to know if next Tuesday's Commission briefing on small modular reactors might actually discuss Japan. Any inkling of that happening?

Thanks,

Dave

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Clark, Lisa; Coggins, Angela; Clark, Lisa  
**Cc:** McIntyre, David; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

(b)(5)

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
[Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov](mailto:Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:44 PM  
**To:** Clark, Lisa; Coggins, Angela; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Fw: YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

Thoughts?

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 11:48:42 2011  
**Subject:** YUCCA MTN - CBS NEWS interview request for CHM

Hi Josh - (b)(6). And not to dump further salt in the wound, but we received a request from CBS Evening News for an interview with the Chairman.

They are planning a story on Yucca Mountain for next Thursday's evening news. They plan to leave Monday evening for Nevada. They would like to interview the Chairman on camera Monday if possible for about 15 minutes to ask him why he ordered the closeout of the license application review, and why not release the SER so the public would have the benefit of the staff's work. They will focus somewhat on the three non-concurrences, which she characterizes as "pretty strong."

I indicated skepticism that the Chairman would make himself available given the nature of the Yucca issue and continuing adjudication, as well as the press of current events. But I also indicated that I would run it up the flagpole and try to get back to her today.

If we reject an interview, she said they would appreciate a written statement from the Chairman explaining his decision.

(b)(5)

Dave

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
***Protecting People & the Environment***

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**From:** Eli Kintisch <ekintisch@aaas.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:44 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: questions for Science Magazine

Eliot: Thanks for the note. My story is about q's, at this point, more than answers. There's a crisis in Japan, and I think for the best of the public there as well as here, we don't have the luxury of waiting till all the facts come out to tell the public what our best scientists think about the situation.

At *Science* we separate speculation from fact, as I know NRC's staff and commissioners do, and I would be clear to do so in my story.

Happy to speak to any expert you'd have me talk to, on any basis. The NRC has done studies into how spent nuclear fuel behaves. I think the public in Japan and here would be best informed to know what the experts who have done those studies think...

Best, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

>>> "Brenner, Eliot" <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)> 3/25/2011 3:44 PM >>>

Eli: Your questions were kicked upstairs to me. Speaking as an ex reporter, the questions are interesting, but I think perhaps a bit ahead of any solid knowledge of confirmed facts, and thus would lead to speculation. I know of no NRC contract work with the labs – at this instant – that would preclude the labs from talking, but I would personally not encourage them to speculate in the absence of information that has been solidly verified. I would encourage you to work any request for lab interviews through DOE headquarters and/or NNSA.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:38 PM  
**To:** 'Donna Deedy'  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: MOX SER question

Hello Ms. Deedy;

Agency staff, including Public Affairs, are currently focused on responding to the events in Japan and the NRC's examination of U.S. operating reactors in light of those events. It is unlikely anyone will be available to respond to your queries on MOX or the MFFF for the next several weeks. Thank you.

Scott Burnell

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Donna Deedy [mailto:deedy@optonline.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 4:38 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** MOX SER question

Dear Scott,

Two more questions:

1. I wonder how the safety reviewers for MOX track the applicant's safety commitments that are promised during the licensing review.
2. You had also said that there were no open items in for the operating SER. Yet, the FSER notes that there are commitments to address unresolved safety issues sometime in the future. This seems a contradiction. Can you explain?

Best,  
Donna Deedy

Bu/926

---

**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:58 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** TNT items

SEISMIC/JAPAN ISSUES – The Daily Local News (of West Chester, Pa.) hit us with an assortment of questions on our seismic risk study and Japan reactor event-related reviews. The reporter's interest was focused at least in part on the Limerick plant because of its proximity to the paper's coverage area. Separately, a reporter for CNN wanted to know why the Riverkeeper organization was asserting Indian Point was the plant with the greatest seismic vulnerability nationwide.

INDIAN POINT – The New York Daily News continues to ask us about exemptions granted to the plant over the years. This interest was sparked by New York State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky's repeated assertions that we granted exemptions to the plant in a reckless manner and without sufficient review. Bloomberg News Service continues to pose questions about the emergency plans for the plant. The Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) wanted to know if spent fuel pools will be part of our quick-look review. We said that they would be.

OYSTER CREEK – A reporter for the Chicago Tribune had a laundry list of new questions about our approval of the Oyster Creek license renewal application in 2009. They included how underground piping was assessed during the review and the ability of the public to participate in the process. The reporter said the concerns were being raised by the NIRS/Beyond Nuclear organization.

Bu/927

---

**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:41 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: possible press release

(b)(5)

Beth Hayden  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
— *Protecting People and the Environment*  
301-415-8202  
[elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:25 PM  
**To:** Morris, Scott; Ross-Lee, MaryJane  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Dyer, Jim; Glitter, Joseph; McGinty, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: possible press release

Very aware of news value ...

(b)(5)

eliot

---

**From:** Morris, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:21 PM  
**To:** Ross-Lee, MaryJane; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Dyer, Jim; Glitter, Joseph; McGinty, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: possible press release

Could be newsworthy ... first "real" hardware delivered by USA in support of cooling the Fukushima plants ...

---

**From:** Ross-Lee, MaryJane  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:58 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Dyer, Jim; Morris, Scott; Glitter, Joseph; McGinty, Tim  
**Subject:** possible press release

Elliott, I was asked to pulse you on whether you wanted to consider issuing a press release when this Bechtel created pumping system actually arrived at the plant site.

thanks

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** 'Leistikow, Dan'; 'damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov'  
**Subject:** more lab questions

fyi

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 2:54 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Fw: Science Mag on SNF pool #4 at Fukushima req a

And the other

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

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**From:** Eli Kintisch <ekintisch@aaaas.org>  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 14:49:31 2011  
**Subject:** Science Mag on SNF pool #4 at Fukushima req a

Scott:

1. Would NRC let me speak to Sandia scientists for a story about what we know occurred in this pool? There's a lot of wrong information out there, and I'd like some experts to help me lay out the facts as we know them.

Below is a preliminary sketch I've prepared to help me write my story. In an interview with Sandia staff, I'd go through the evidence for

2. Here is an email I just sent Sandia's press person Jim D:

Jim: I get that NRC would ask Sandia not to comment on Sandia \_studies\_ on nuclear matters, but I don't see why they have authority to tell you not to comment on Fukushima.

a) You're just contractors for them, and your work is not related to Japan  
b) your paychecks are not from NRC, but nnsa/sandia. In fact I'm sure some of your best experts who have worked on reactors/SNF studies do work for other clients, not just the NRC.

Thanks, Eli

On 15 March a hydrogen explosion blew out the outer structure of Reactor #4 at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. Since then, crews have extinguished multiple fires while struggling to keep spent nuclear fuel in the pool there cool. Scientists had theorized that the spent fuel, if allowed to heat up, could cause an explosion, but it had never happened before. Now experts are asking several key questions as they piece together events:

1. **What caused the loss of water in the pool, and how did the water level get?** Whether the water drained, evaporated or boiled off would provide clues for what happened next. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission chair Greg Jaczko claimed on 16 March that the pool, which holds 400,000 liters of water was empty at one point
2. **What caused the hydrogen explosion?** Zirconium alloy, which makes up the tubes in which uranium fuel pellets, reacts with steam to form hydrogen, which can ignite in the presence of oxygen. But without chemical samples and temperature or pressure readings its hard to know for sure that this was what caused the explosion.
3. **What temperature was the water?** For several days after the crisis began, Japanese authorities were reporting a constant temperature of 84 deg C for the pool. Then they stopped reporting it. Such relatively cool temperatures are inconsistent with the 600 deg C + temperatures that the Zirconium reaction requires.
4. **Why have recorded levels of Cesium-137 outside the plant remained low?** If multiple fires have ravaged the spent fuel pools, there is a risk that long-lived radionuclides, primarily cesium, have melted and aerosolized. But while high radiation levels have kept crews from Reactor 4, there has been few reports of cesium particles escaping from the plant.

Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** 'damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov'; 'Leistikow, Dan'  
**Subject:** reporter lab questions

Sorry, I cant do a group reply so this is the first email I got. I will forward the second momentarily, then respond to her with a copy to you guys.

eliot

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 2:54 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Fw: Science Mag on SNF pool #4 at Fukushima req b

I'm kicking both of these up to eliot – he's right that we can't tell Sandia what to say about questions outside of NRC study space.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

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**From:** Eli Kintisch <ekintisch@aaas.org>  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 14:49:57 2011  
**Subject:** Science Mag on SNF pool #4 at Fukushima req b

Scott:

My story's due on Monday morning, but I will have till tuesday AM to add information if need be. Could I speak to NRC staff about this on Sunday or Monday? Jaczko?

Best, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

>>> Eli Kintisch 3/25/2011 2:49 PM >>>

Bu/930

Scott:

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Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:31 PM  
**To:** 'damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov'; 'Leistikow, Dan'  
**Subject:** National lab interviews

**Importance:** High

Gents: In a moment I am going to copy you on a note to a writer for the AAAS who wants to interview Lab scientists, I think Sandia, on their thoughts about the spent fuel pools. As far as I know I can't get in the way because there is no NRC-contractor relationship that exists on ongoing data or lack thereof. Frankly, I think she is way ahead of the game in terms of there being any information to help answer her questions. I am going to tell her if there is no contractual relationship I cannot interject the NRC here, but that I **strongly** encourage her to work through you guys. Her questions will be at the bottom of the email chain.

Eliot (pretending I am home taking a day off)

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**From:** Jones, Andrea  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:20 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Doane, Margaret  
**Subject:** RE: General Responses and Code of Conduct for NRC staff during CNS.docx

Thanks Eliot. Very good point.

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:17 PM  
**To:** Jones, Andrea  
**Cc:** Doane, Margaret  
**Subject:** RE: General Responses and Code of Conduct for NRC staff during CNS.docx

(b)(5)

eliot

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**From:** Jones, Andrea  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:08 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Doane, Margaret  
**Subject:** General Responses and Code of Conduct for NRC staff during CNS.docx

Good Afternoon Eliot,

I work for Margie and will accompany her and the Chairman during the CNS in Vienna. We've developed some "Code of Conduct" talking points and responses for the NRC staff for their use and guidance during the meetings at CNS. These can be used during casual hall-way conversations or during any time while we're in Vienna. Margie asked me to send these to you for your review before we distribute. We would like to give these to the team next week, before they depart.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**General Responses and Code of Conduct for NRC staff during CNS**

(b)(5)

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** 'George.Lobsenz@ihs.com'; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Does NRC want to comment on this?

George;

The NRC responds to FOIAs as promptly and as completely as possible. It's impossible at this point to provide any timelines for full responses to any recent Japan event-related FOIAs.

Scott

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Lobsenz, George <George.Lobsenz@ihs.com>  
To: Burnell, Scott  
Sent: Fri Mar 25 14:44:35 2011  
Subject: Does NRC want to comment on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: landerson@hastingsgroup.com [mailto:landerson@hastingsgroup.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:58 PM  
To: globsenz@accessintel.com  
Subject: News - Japan Reactor Crisis/FOIA Filing - 3 Groups Seeking Full Fukushima Radiation Data From DOE, NRC

FUKUSHIMA-RELATED FOIA REQUEST: FULL DATA SOUGHT ON RADIATION LEVELS THAT LED TO NRC CHAIR'S CALL FOR 50-MILE EVACUATION RADIUS FOR AMERICANS IN JAPAN

Why Aren't Japanese and American Citizens Getting All the Facts? "Extreme" Step Seen As Indication of Much Higher Radiation Levels Than Revealed So Far by NRC, Japanese Government

WASHINGTON, D.C. - March 25, 2011 - Three groups - Friends of the Earth (FOE), the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) - announced today that they have filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to get to the bottom of what led the U.S. government to call for a 50-mile evacuation radius for Americans near the Japanese reactor crisis in Fukushima.

The FOIA requests filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are available online at <http://foe.org/sites/default/files/FOE-NIRS-PSR-RadiationFOIA-3-22-11.pdf>. The three groups are not satisfied that the incomplete summary provided so far by the DOE at <http://www.energy.gov/news/10194.htm> provides the full picture of the scale of the radiation.

On March 16, 2011, NRC Commissioner Gregory B. Jazcko told Congress that he was recommending the 50-mile evacuation radius. (See <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/commission/comm-gregory-jaczko/0317nrc-transcript-jaczko.pdf>.) The scope of the recommended evacuation is highly unusual and suggestive of extraordinarily high radiation levels in excess of those reported to the public in Japan and the U.S., the three groups said. In the U.S., nuclear reactor licensees and local governments are only asked to provide for evacuation out to 10 miles.

As concerns grow about food and water contamination in Japan, the three groups filing the FOIA request are seeking to determine the answer to this key question: What made Jazcko exceed the limits of his own agency's regulations by five times?

Tom Clements, Southeastern nuclear campaign coordinator, Friends of the Earth, said: "The radiation monitoring information being collected by the U.S. Government in Japan is of urgent interest to the public in the U.S. and internationally and we expect an expedited response to the FOIA request. If the full data set is not immediately released, the government can rightly be accused of attempting to cover up the radiation threat posed by the disaster. This would severely undermine regulators' credibility."

Michael Mariotte, executive director, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Takoma Park, MD, said: "By recommending a 50-mile evacuation zone for U.S. residents, NRC Chairman Jazcko gave a strong signal that the Fukushima accident was much worse than reported by the Japanese government and the utility. We believe that he was getting information about the severity of the accident from airborne radiation measurements taken by U.S. Department of Energy aircraft. But neither DOE nor the NRC has published those measurements in full."

Attorney Diane Curran of Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg, LLP, who filed the FOIA request for the groups, said: "We think the American and Japanese public have a right to see the complete details of the Fukushima radiation data and, therefore, we have requested the NRC and the DOE to release the information under the Freedom of Information Act. If necessary, we are prepared to go to federal court to get the uncensored set of measurements."

As the FOIA request explains, the three groups "seek expedited release" of the requested information, "so that they may timely inform their members and the general public about the unfolding events at the Fukushima reactors, including the significance of the public health and environmental threat posed by radiation releases from the Fukushima reactors. Requesters believe that requested disclosures will do a great deal to fill currently existing information gaps and resolve inconsistencies in the currently available reports about the severity of the Japanese radiological releases."

The groups also contend that expedited release of the information is justified in order to allow them to participate in and comment on any proceedings the federal government may undertake to evaluate the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, including the 90-day review of the safety of U.S. reactors recently announced by the NRC. According to the FOIA request letter, a better understanding of the severity of the Fukushima releases is "essential to Requesters' ability to evaluate and participate in any such review."

MEDIA CONTACTS: Leslie Anderson, (703) 276-3256 or [landerson@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:landerson@hastingsgroup.com)

This email was sent to [globsenz@accessintel.com](mailto:globsenz@accessintel.com)

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** 'Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com'; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: FOIA on radiation data

The response stands as-is. Don't mean to be short, but that's all I can offer.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

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**From:** Tracy, Tennille <Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com>  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 14:41:42 2011  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA on radiation data

Any thoughts on what they are contending? I mean, these guys are suggesting that our government had evidence to suggest radiation levels around Fukushima were higher or worse than Japanese officials were saying? Any thoughts on that?

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 2:37 PM  
**To:** Tracy, Tennille  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: FOIA on radiation data

The NRC responds to FOIAs as promptly and as completely as possible. It's impossible at this point to provide any timelines for full responses to any recent Japan event-related FOIAs.

Thanks.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

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**From:** Tracy, Tennille <Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com>  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 14:27:44 2011  
**Subject:** FOIA on radiation data

Scott ... A coalition of environmental and social groups are filing a FOIA with NRC and DOE to get data on radiation levels around Fukushima. They are contending that the US knew that radiation levels were worse than what Japanese officials were saying. Can I get a comment from you guys?

<http://www.foe.org/fukushima-related-foia-request>

**Tennille Tracy**

**Dow Jones Newswires | Wall Street Journal**

Office: 202.862.6619 | Cell: (b)(6)

1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington D.C., 20036

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:35 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Attachments  
**Attachments:** B5b\_QA.docx

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:34 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** Re: Attachments

Don't need gi199, but B5B is probably helpful to refresh his memory.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 12:31:51 2011  
**Subject:** Attachments

First Talking Points are latest general ones

Second attachment are Seismic only Q&A

Two FAQs are posted on the Web, but directly relevant

I'll send a second e-mail with the original Q&As developed at the chairman's request.

We have assorted Q&As we developed to answer specific media questions, like those on B5b or the GI-191, which I am not including, unless you want those, too.

Bu1935

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:32 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** general Q&As  
**Attachments:** boardfile.docx

Questions and Answers for Chairman Jaczko

March 11, 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Aftermath  
As of 11:30 a.m. 3/15/2011

**1. What is the NRC doing about the emergencies at the nuclear power plants in Japan? Are you sending staff over there?**

Public Answer: We are closely following events in Japan, working with other agencies of the federal government, and have been in direct contact with our counterparts in that country. We have sent a total of 11 staff to Tokyo in response to the Japanese government's request for assistance. Two of those NRC staff members, knowledgeable about boiling water reactors, are already in Japan participating in the USAID team.

Additional technical, non-public information:

We are taking the knowledge that the staff has about the design of the US nuclear plants and we are applying this knowledge to the Japan situation. For example, this includes calculations of severe accident mitigation that have been performed. Tony Ulses and Jim Trapp are in-country. Team led by Chuck Casto enroute from various locations.

**2. What's going to happen following the hydrogen explosions everyone's seen from the video footage?**

Public Answer: The NRC is aware of the Japanese efforts to stabilize conditions at the affected reactors, and those actions are in line with what would be done in the United States. The NRC continues to monitor information on the status of the reactor core, the reactor vessel and the containment structure – all three areas are important to controlling the situation and protecting the public.

Additional technical, non-public information:

The explosions affected the secondary containment buildings for Units 1 and 3 of the reactor plant. The primary containment was unaffected by the explosion. This does expose the spent fuel pools to atmosphere but should not affect the integrity of the spent fuel pool. With the integrity of the Secondary Containment breached it is more essential to maintain Primary Containment intact.

To provide additional protection to Primary Containment, US reactors of the containment type similar to Fukushima Unit 1 installed a hardened vent line from primary containment directly to the vent stack. A hardened vent provides a release path which would prevent an overpressurization of containment as experienced at Fukushima Unit One. Venting from the hardened vent is typically a manual operation that is controlled by the Emergency Operating Procedures as a last resort to protect the containment from failure. This vent path can be directly from the upper containment or from the torus (the preferred vent path due to scrubbing effect of the torus water).

**3. What should be done to protect people in Alaska, Hawaii and the West Coast from radioactive fallout?**

Public Answer: The NRC continues to believe that the type and design of the Japanese reactors, combined with how events have unfolded, will prevent radiation at harmful levels from reaching U.S. territory.

Additional technical, non-public information: NRC is working with DHS, EPA and other federal partners to ensure monitoring equipment for confirmatory readings is properly positioned, based on meteorological and other relevant information.

**Questions and Answers developed by Rob Taylor**

**4. Can this happen here i.e. an earthquake that significantly damages a nuclear power plant? Are the Japanese plants similar to U.S. plants?**

Public Answer: All U.S. nuclear power plants are built to withstand environmental hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis. Even those plants that are located in areas with low and moderate seismic activity are designed for safety in the event of such a natural disaster. The NRC requires that safety-significant structures, systems, and components be designed to take into account even very rare and extreme seismic and tsunami events.

The Japanese facilities are similar in design to several US facilities.

Additional technical, non-public information:

Currently operating reactors were designed using a "deterministic" or "maximum credible earthquake" approach. Seismic hazard for the new plants is determined using a much more robust probabilistic seismic hazard assessment approach that explicitly addresses uncertainty and very rare events, as described in RG1.208. The NRC requires that adequate margin beyond the design basis ground shaking levels is assured. The NRC further enhances seismic safety for beyond-design-basis events through the use of a defense-in-depth approach.

In addition, the NRC periodically reviews the seismic risk at operating reactors when information may have changed. Over the last few years the NRC has undertaken a program called Generic Issue 199, which is focused on assessing hazard for plants in the central and eastern US using the latest techniques (developed in part during reviews of Western U.S. plants) and determining the possible risk implications of any increase in the anticipated ground shaking levels. This program will help us assure that the plants are safe under exceptionally rare and extreme ground motions that represent beyond-design-basis events.

**5. What would U.S. plants do in this situation?**

Public Answer: The NRC requires plant designs to include multiple and diverse safety systems, and plants must test their emergency preparedness capabilities on a regular basis. Plant operators are very capable of responding to significant events. In addition, NRC regulations require plants to have plans in place that would allow them to mitigate even "worst case scenarios".

Since 9/11, we have implemented requirements for licensees to have additional response capabilities for extreme situations.

Additional technical, non-public information:

U.S. nuclear plants have procedures in place to address a variety of accident scenarios, including abnormal operating procedures, emergency operating procedures, severe accident management guidelines and emergency plans. Additionally, the NRC activates Incident Response centers in Headquarters and individual Regions as necessary for the event to provide technical monitoring and support.

The NRC is capable of providing access to many external agencies (i.e., FEMA, Homeland Security, Military, etc.) to provide any additional help that individual plant sites may need. Additionally, the NRC has access to real-time plant information through the ERDS System for each site in the US and can monitor the status anytime.

#### **6. Are U.S. power plants designed to withstand tsunamis?**

Public Answer: Yes. Plants are built to withstand a variety of environmental hazards. Those plants that might face a threat from tsunami are required to withstand large waves and the maximum and minimum wave heights at the intake structure (which varies by plant.)

Additional, technical, non-public information:

Tsunami have been considered in the design of US nuclear plants since the publication of Regulatory Guide 1.59 in 1977, although the approaches that were used for design of the existing plants varied significantly. Nuclear plants are designed to withstand flooding from not only tsunami, but also hurricane and storm surge; therefore there is often significant margin against tsunami flooding. However, it should be noted that Japanese experience has shown that drawdown can be a significant problem. Drawdown was not generally analyzed in the past.

Currently the US NRC has a tsunami research program that is focused on developing modern hazard assessment techniques and additional guidance through cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Geological Survey. This has already lead to several technical reports and an update to NUREG 0-800. The NOAA and USGS contractors are also assisting with NRO reviews of tsunami hazard. A new regulatory guide on tsunami hazard assessment is currently planned in the office of research, although it is not expected to be available in draft form until 2012.

#### **7. What happens when/if a plant "melts down"?**

Public Answer: In short, nuclear power plants in the United States are designed to be safe. To prevent the release of radioactive material, there are multiple barriers between the radioactive material and the environment, including the fuel cladding, the heavy steel reactor vessel itself and the containment building, usually a heavily reinforced structure of concrete and steel several feet thick.

Additional, technical, non-public information:

The melted core may melt through the bottom of the vessel and flow onto the concrete containment floor. The core may melt through the containment liner and release radioactive material to the environment.

#### **8. Why is KI administered during nuclear emergencies?**

Public Answer: KI – potassium iodide – is one of the protective measures that might be taken in a radiological emergency in this country. A KI tablet will saturate the thyroid with non radioactive iodine and prevent the absorption of radioactive iodine that could be part of the radioactive material mix of radionuclides in a release. KI does not prevent exposure from these other radionuclides.

Additional, technical non-public information.

There are a range of protective measures that we use ... the most effective is evacuation. Local government officials are responsible for determining the best means to protect their public. KI is another means for protection but evacuation and sheltering are the primary means that are used.

#### **9. Was there any damage to U.S. reactors from either the earthquake or the resulting tsunami?**

Public Answer: No

Additional, technical non-public information: Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2 were the only US plants to declare any type of an emergency classification. The site entered an "unusual event" based on a tsunami warning from the State, NOAA, NWS, Coast Guard or System Dispatcher following the Japanese earthquake. They have since exited the "unusual event" declaration, based on a downgrade to a tsunami advisory.

#### **10. Has this incident changed the NRC perception about earthquake risk?**

Public Answer: There has been no change in the NRC's perception of earthquake hazard (i.e. ground shaking levels) for US nuclear plants. As is prudent, the NRC will certainly be looking closely at this incident and the effects on the Japanese nuclear power plant in the future to see if any changes are necessary to NRC regulations.

Additional, technical, non-public information.

We expect that there would be lessons learned, etc. It appears that the sites did not have any critical damage due to the earthquake from the fact that the emergency diesel generators initially responded to provide power to the site. The tsunami and consequential site flooding was responsible for the complete loss of power to the site, including the diesel generators which resulted in a Station Blackout.

#### **11. Will this incident affect new reactor licensing?**

Public Answer: It is not appropriate to hypothesize on such a future scenario at this point.

Additional, technical non-public information:

This event could potentially call into question the NRC's seismic requirements which could require the staff to re-evaluate the staff's approval of the AP1000 and ESBWR design and certifications.

**12. What magnitude earthquake are US plants designed to?**

Public Answer: Each plant is designed to a ground-shaking level that is appropriate for its location, given the possible earthquake sources that may affect the site and its tectonic environment. Ground shaking is a function of both the magnitude of an earthquake and the distance from the fault plane to the site. The probabilistic approaches currently used by the NRC account for a large number of different magnitudes.

Additional, technical non-public information:

In the past, "deterministic" or "scenario based" analyses were used to determine ground shaking (seismic hazard) levels. Now a probabilistic method is used that accounts for all possible earthquakes coming from all possible sources (including background seismicity) and the likelihood that each particular hypothetical earthquake occurs.

**13. How many US reactors are located in active earthquake zones (and which reactors)?**

Public Answer: Although we often think of the US as having "active" and "non-active" earthquake zones, earthquakes can actually happen almost anywhere. Seismologists typically separate the US into low, moderate, and high seismicity zones. The NRC requires that every plant is designed for site-specific ground motions that are appropriate for their location. In addition, the NRC has specified a minimum ground shaking level to which the plants must be designed.

Additional, technical non-public information: No additional.

**14. How many reactors are along coastal areas that could be affected by a tsunami (and which ones)?**

Public Answer: Many plants are located in coastal areas that could theoretically be affected by tsunami. Two plants, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre, are on the Pacific Coast, which is known to have tsunami hazard. There are also two plants on the Gulf Coast, South Texas and Crystal River. There are many plants on the Atlantic Coast or on rivers that may be affected by a tidal bore. These include St. Lucie, Turkey Point, Brunswick, Oyster Creek, Millstone, Pilgrim, Seabrook, Calvert Cliffs, Salem/Hope Creek, and Surry. Tsunami on the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts occur, but are very rare. Generally the flooding anticipated from hurricane storm surge exceeds the flooding expected from a tsunami for plants on the Atlantic and Gulf Coast.

Additional, technical non-public information: None

**15. How many U.S. plants have designs similar to the affected Japanese reactors (and which ones)?**

Public answer: Thirty-five of the 104 operating nuclear power plants in the U.S. are boiling water reactors (BWRs), as are the reactors at Fukushima. Twenty-three of the U.S. BWRs have the same Mark I containment as the Fukushima reactors.

Four of the U.S. BWRs are early designs which are similar to Fukushima Unit 1.

Nineteen U.S. BWRs are similar to Fukushima Unit 3.

Additional Information

Fukushima Unit 1 is a BWR-3 with a Mark 1 containment similar to Oyster Creek, Nine Mile Point Unit 1, and Dresden Units 2 and 3.

Fukushima Unit 3 is a BWR-4 with a Mark 1 containment and a Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) system. The remaining 31 U.S. BWRs use a Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) system instead of an isolation condenser. Nineteen of those 31 reactors have a Mark 1 containment, while the remainder are more recent designs.

**16. What resources are the Japanese asking for?**

The Japanese have formally requested equipment needed to cool the reactor fuel. This includes such things as pumps, fire hoses, portable generators, and diesel fuel. The NRC is coordinating with General Electric, which has plant design specifications, to ensure any equipment provided will be capable of meeting the needs of the Japanese.

**17. What should the American public know about the incident in Japan?**

The events unfolding in Japan are the result of a catastrophic series of natural disasters. These include the fifth largest earthquake in recorded history and the resulting devastating tsunami. Despite these unique circumstances, the Japanese appear to have taken reasonable actions to mitigate the event and protect the surrounding population. Since the beginning of the event, the NRC has continuously manned its Operations Center in Rockville, MD in order to gather and examine all available information as part of the effort to analyze the event and understand its implications both for Japan and the United States.

**18. What could you say about the dangers to the American public from our nuclear plants?**

As the events in Japan continue to unfold, the NRC is focused on supporting the Japanese government and people in bringing this crisis to closure in the safest manner possible. The NRC remains convinced that U.S. nuclear power plants are designed and operated in a manner that protects public health and safety. The time will come, after this crisis is behind us, to evaluate what, if any, changes are needed at U.S. nuclear power plants. We will assess all the available information and, as we have done with previous natural disasters, such as the 2007 earthquake in the Sea of Japan and the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, evaluate whether enhancements to U.S. nuclear power plants are warranted.

**19. What happens next in Japan? How long will it take to assess the damage to the reactors?**

The current focus is ensuring that adequate cooling of the reactor fuel at each of the affected Japanese reactors is established and maintained. In the days, weeks, and months that follow, there will be adequate time to assess the damage and determine next steps.

**20. Compare this incident to the Three Mile Island. What are the similarities?**

The events at Three Mile Island in 1979 were the result of an equipment malfunction that resulted in the loss of cooling water to the reactor fuel. Subsequent operator actions compounded the malfunction ultimately resulting in the partial core meltdown. While details are still developing, the events in Japan appear to be the result of an earthquake and subsequent tsunami that knocked out electrical power to emergency safety systems designed to cool the reactor fuel. In both events the final safety barrier, the containment building, contained the majority of the radioactivity preventing its release to the environment.

**21. Why did the seawater fail to cool the reactor?**

Based on information available to the NRC, it appears that the seawater has been effective at providing some cooling for the reactor. While it appears that some fuel damage has occurred, there will be plenty of time once this crisis is resolved to determine the effectiveness of the measures taken in response to this event.

**22. If Chernobyl was a 7 and Three Mile Island was a 5, when does this event move from the 4 level?**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rates nuclear events in accordance with its International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES). IAEA has assigned the events in Japan an INES rating of 4, "Accident with Local Consequences." This rating is subject to change as events unfold and additional information becomes available. INES classifies nuclear accidents based on the radiological effects on people and the environment and the status of barriers to the release of radiation. IAEA determinations regarding the INES rating of events are made independently.

Three Mile Island was assigned an INES rating of 5, "Accident with Wider Consequences," due to the severed damage to the reactor core.

**23. Are any Americans in danger – armed forces, citizens in Tokyo?**

The NRC, in consultation with the White House and U.S. Embassy, has advised United States citizens in Japan to follow the protective measures recommended by the Japanese government. These measures appear to be consistent with steps the United States would take. The Department of Defense has personnel trained in radiation protective measures and is responsible for providing guidance to U.S. armed forces. Inquiries regarding U.S. citizens in Japan should be directed to the State Department, Consular Services at 202-647-7004.

**24. What is the worst case scenario for the plant?**

In a nuclear emergency, the most important action is ensure the core is covered with water to provide cooling to remove any heat from the fuel rods. Without adequate cooling, the fuel rods will melt. Should the final containment structure fail, radiation from these melting fuel rods would be released to the atmosphere and additional protective measures may be necessary, depending on factors such as prevailing wind patterns.

**25. As time goes on, does the chance for a meltdown increase?**

Not necessarily. Each passing hour the fuel rods will become cooler. If adequate cooling can be established and maintained, the risk of a meltdown will be mitigated.

**26. Is our battery backup power less effective than the Japanese?**

No. US regulations do not specify the length of time that you need to have the batteries operate following a loss of offsite power (most sites plan to have battery backup capability for 8 hours). Instead, the amount of time is dependent on the site recovery strategy and is based on

providing sufficient capacity to assure that the core is cooled and containment integrity and other vital functions are maintained in the event of postulated accidents.

**27. Are we providing additional KI to the Japanese?**

We have not been asked to provide KI.

**28. What are US plants required to have for backup power? More than what the Japanese reactors did?**

US plants need to meet 10 CFR 50 Appendix A criterion 17. Reactor units must have 2 independent power supplies. All US (except Oconee) plants have diesels and battery backup systems. Most of the US plants with diesels have two diesels per unit and those that have only one dedicated diesel have a swing diesel available. The regulations do not specify the length of time that you need to have the diesels and batteries operate following a loss of offsite power (most sites plan to run the diesels for multiple days and have battery backup capability for 8 hours). Instead the amount of time is dependent on the site recovery strategy and is based on providing sufficient capacity to assure that the core is cooled and containment integrity and other vital functions are maintained in the event of postulated accidents.

*[[[Japanese regulations to follow from OIP.]]]*

**29. Some in the media and in Hill briefings are suggesting that Mark 1 containment is flawed. What are the concerns about this type of containment? Are the US plants with this safe?**

BWR Mark I containments have relatively small volumes in comparison with PWR containments. This makes the BWR Mark I containment relatively more susceptible to containment failure given a core meltdown severe enough to (1) fail the reactor vessel and also (2) severe enough so that the core melt reaches the containment boundary. On the positive side, BWRs have more ways of adding water to the core than PWRs. This includes 2 water injection sources which do not rely on AC electric power. These systems include Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) and High pressure coolant injection (HPCI).

The NRC considers BWRs with Mark I containment designs to be safe.

**30. Any quick-hit info about how the Southeast Reactors performed during Katrina? What damage did the flood water do? Any power loss?**

The reactors performed as designed. Waterford was the most impacted while River Bend also experienced some effects.

Waterford 3 (near New Orleans, LA) did not have damage to any safety equipment during, or shortly after Katrina. They shut down on August 28, 2005, in advance of the hurricane strike. The flooding did affect local infrastructure, including communications and power distribution. However, the plant successfully used their emergency diesel generators to furnish plant power. Access was maintained to the plant throughout the event. On September 9, 2005, after a comprehensive review by FEMA and the NRC, the plant was authorized to restart.

River Bend Station (30 miles north of Baton Rouge, LA) did not experience damage to any safety related equipment and only minimal damage to emergency planning equipment (one siren) during and after Hurricane Katrina. The station reduced power to 70 percent core thermal power on August 28, 2005, due to reduced electrical grid loads. Access was maintained to the plant throughout the event. On September 2, 2005, the plant returned to 100% power.

Also, in 1992 the eye of Hurricane Andrew, a category 5 hurricane, passed directly over the Turkey Point nuclear plant. The plant was shut down prior to the hurricane making landfall and an assessment of the plant following the hurricane demonstrated that the plant sustained very little damage and all of the safety equipment was intact. (Most of the damage was to the security fences being blown down).

**31. With NRC moving to design certification, at what point is seismic capability tested – during design or modified to be site-specific? If in design, what strength seismic event must these be built to withstand?**

The regulations related to seismic requirements are contained in 10 CFR 50 Appendix A criterion 2.

During design certification, vendors propose a seismic design in terms of a ground motion spectrum for their nuclear facility. This spectrum is called a standard design response spectrum and is developed so that the proposed nuclear facility can be sited at most locations in the central and eastern United States. The vendors show that this design ground motion is suitable for a variety of different subsurface conditions such as hard rock, deep soil, or shallow soil over rock. Combined License and Early Site Permits applicants are required to develop a site specific ground motion response spectrum that takes into account all of the earthquakes in the region surrounding their site as well as the local site geologic conditions. Applicants estimate the ground motion from these postulated earthquakes to develop seismic hazard curves. These seismic hazard curves are then used to determine a site specific ground motion response spectrum that has a maximum annual likelihood of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  of being exceeded. This can be thought of as a ground motion with a 10,000 year return period. This site specific ground motion response spectrum is then compared to the standard design response spectrum for the proposed design. If the standard design ground motion spectrum envelopes the site specific ground motion spectrum then the site is considered to be suitable for the proposed design. If the standard design spectrum does not completely envelope the site specific ground motion spectrum, then the COL applicant must do further detailed structural analysis to show that the design capacity is adequate. Margin beyond the standard design and site specific ground motions must also be demonstrated before fuel loading can begin.

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**From:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:28 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman  
**Attachments:** image001.png

The Ambassador's words today were "I'm just not sure that they realize in the States what a circus it is over here right now."

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:27 PM  
**To:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Restrain me!  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 12:22:46 2011  
**Subject:** RE: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Sorry to hear that. (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:22 PM  
**To:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

(b)(6)  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 12:20:06 2011  
**Subject:** RE: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Yikes. Hope everything is ok.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:20 PM  
**To:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Thanks. I will reach out to her shortly. (b)(6) (long story not worth repeating here).

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Schwartzman, Jennifer  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 12:10:46 2011  
**Subject:** FW: RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Eliot,

Margie said she sent you a flurry of emails this morning but couldn't remember if she sent the original one (below). It has contact info for the UNVIE PAO, Jennifer Hall-Godfrey. Please feel free to contact her if you haven't already and you can get the ball rolling on a strategy. She is already aware that you are coming to Vienna.

---

**From:** Shaffer, Mark R [mailto:ShafferMr@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 8:34 AM  
**To:** Doane, Margaret  
**Cc:** Schwartzman, Jennifer; Rodriguez, Veronica; Jones, Andrea; Mamish, Nader  
**Subject:** RED ALERT - Public Affairs Preparation for Chairman

Margie:

(b)(5)

**Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J**

DoS

UNVIE PAO

UNVIE/PA

+43 1 31339 4726 Work

Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov

Wagramerstrasse 17-19

1220 Vienna

Austria

Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov IM

(b)(5)

-Mark

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:43 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Yucca

ok

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:42 AM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Re: Yucca

Send note to josh (b)(6), inform him of the request and that we recommend (b)(5)  
(b)(5).

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** McIntyre, David  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 11:32:17 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Yucca

Just spoke to Laura. They are planning a story on Yucca Mountain for next Thursday's evening news. They plan to leave Monday evening for Nevada. They would like to interview the Chairman on camera Monday if possible for about 15 minutes to ask him why he ordered the closeout of the license application review, and why not release the SER so the public would have the benefit of the staff's work. They will focus somewhat on the three non-concurrences, which she characterizes as "pretty strong."

I indicated skepticism that the Chairman would make himself available given the nature of the Yucca issue and the press of current events. But I also indicated that I would run it up the flagpole and try to get back to her today.

If we reject an interview, she said they would appreciate a written statement from the Chairman explaining his decision.

Would you like to run it by the folks upstairs? Josh may be in a bad mood since Duke lost last night.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:10 AM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Fw: Yucca

Pls take this, and behave yourself.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Strickler, Laura <StricklerL@cbsnews.com>

**To:** Brenner, Eliot

**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 11:05:55 2011

**Subject:** Yucca

Hi Eliot,

We are working on a story about Yucca Mountain- I know the situation in Japan is still overwhelming but I'm hoping we can speak for a few minutes today. Thanks very much,

Laura Strickler

202-457-1597

**Laura V. Strickler, Producer**

*CBS Evening News with Katie Couric*

Desk: 202-457-1597

Cell: (b)(6)

[stricklerl@cbsnews.com](mailto:stricklerl@cbsnews.com)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:27 AM  
**To:** Screnci, Diane  
**Subject:** Re: Witherspoon request

And, we may not be able to fit it in for weeks anyway.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Screnci, Diane  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 11:25:42 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Witherspoon request

Mike Johnson is at HQ. Someone would have to sit in.

Diane Screnci  
Sr. Public Affairs Officer  
USNRC, RI  
610/337-5330

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** Screnci, Diane  
**Subject:** Re: Witherspoon request

Yes. These are generally benign, but Roger will have to understand Mike can't speak to Japan issues other than what he has done as a manager to support the agency and US Govt. Also, a half hour with Roger is a lot in my book, and perhaps for the sake of speed he should submit questions in advance to move things along.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Screnci, Diane  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Fri Mar 25 11:19:40 2011  
**Subject:** Witherspoon request

Roger Witherspoon is requesting a half-hour interview with Mike Johnson for Black Engineer Magazine. Do you want me to ask Mike directly?

Diane Screnci  
Sr. Public Affairs Officer  
USNRC, RI  
610/337-5330

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** Borenstein, Seth  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: AP science writer (pinch-hitting for Dina and Matt Daly) seeks NRC on latest on Fukushima unit 3 breach

Hi Seth;

Our overall stance on this hasn't changed -- we're just not in a position to be commenting on the latest "snapshot" of conditions. We continue to monitor the best available information coming from the site; nothing we've seen to this point would cause us to revise the recommendations we issued on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

Scott

---

**From:** Borenstein, Seth [mailto:SBorenstein@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:13 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** AP science writer (pinch-hitting for Dina and Matt Daly) seeks NRC on latest on Fukushima unit 3 breach

Scott

It's Seth Borenstein, science writer at The Associated Press. I'm pinch-hitting for Dina Cappiello and Matt Daly. I know you're swamped, but given the latest out of Fukushima on a suspected breach in reactor 3 and highly radioactive water. We're wondering what NRC knows about what is going on. Can you please call me at 202-641-9454. And of course, I'm on immediate deadline.

This is what we're reporting out of Tokyo:

¶ TOKYO (AP) \_ A suspected breach in the reactor at the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant could mean more serious radioactive contamination, Japanese officials revealed Friday, as the prime minister called the country's ongoing fight to **stabilize** the plant "very grave and serious."

¶ A somber Prime Minister Naoto Kan sounded a pessimistic note at a briefing hours after nuclear safety officials announced what could be a major setback in the urgent mission to stop the plant from leaking radiation, two weeks after a devastating earthquake and tsunami disabled it.

¶ "The situation today at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant is still very grave and serious. We must remain vigilant," Kan said. "We are not in a position where we can be optimistic. We must treat every development with the utmost care."

¶ The uncertain situation halted work at the nuclear complex, where dozens had been trying feverishly to stop the overheated plant from leaking dangerous radiation. The plant has leaked some low levels of radiation, but a breach could mean a much larger release of contaminants.

¶ The possible breach in Unit 3 might be a crack or a hole in the stainless steel chamber of the reactor core or in the spent fuel pool that's lined with several feet of reinforced concrete. The temperature and

pressure inside the core, which holds the fuel rods, remained stable and was far lower than would further melt the core.

¶ Suspicions of a possible breach were raised when two workers waded into water 10,000 times more radioactive than levels normally found in water in or around a reactor and suffered skin burns, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said.

Thanks,  
Seth

Seth Borenstein  
Associated Press Science Writer  
1100 13th St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005-4076  
202-641-9454  
[sborenstein@ap.org](mailto:sborenstein@ap.org)

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[IP\_US\_DISC]msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:20 AM  
**To:** tom.doggett@thomsonreuters.com  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Radioactive water leaking from the #3 vessel.

Hi Tom;

Our overall stance on this hasn't changed -- we're just not in a position to be commenting on the latest "snapshot" of conditions. We continue to monitor the best available information coming from the site; nothing we've seen to this point would cause us to revise the recommendations we issued on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

Scott

---

**From:** tom.doggett@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:tom.doggett@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 10:54 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Radioactive water leaking from the #3 vessel.

Hey Scott,

We (and many other news organizations) have a lot of reporting this morning saying the radiation in the water at the Fukushima plants that was 10,000 times normal may have come from the #3 reactor core, indicating a breach of the containment vessel. This is what authorizes in Japan are suggesting.

Does the NRC share this same view, based on what the agency's people on the ground in Japan are saying or what the NRC is hearing from U.S. or Japanese authorities?

Does the NRC believe the radioactive water is leaking, or is likely leaking, from the #3 reactor?

Thanks--Tom

Tom Doggett  
Energy Correspondent  
Reuters News Agency  
202-898-8320 (work)  
(b)(6) (cell)

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**From:** LIA02 Hoc  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 10:24 AM  
**To:** Doane, Margaret; Ramsey, Jack  
**Cc:** Abrams, Charlotte; Emche, Danielle; LIA04 Hoc; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: RI Request on TP re: coordination with Japanese Govt on PAR

Jack,

Are you following up on this, the State Liaison asked me the status of the talking point. Or who should I talk to.

Thank you,

Steve

---

**From:** Doane, Margaret  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:25 PM  
**To:** LIA02 Hoc; Ramsey, Jack  
**Cc:** Abrams, Charlotte; Emche, Danielle; LIA04 Hoc; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: RI Request on TP re: coordination with Japanese Govt on PAR

Hi. I would suggest that Eliot work with the Chairman's office on this matter. OIP was not involved in this issue and it's sensitive. We don't have any information on how any information was shared.  
Margie

---

**From:** LIA02 Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:46 PM  
**To:** Doane, Margaret; Ramsey, Jack  
**Cc:** Abrams, Charlotte; Emche, Danielle; LIA04 Hoc  
**Subject:** FW: RI Request on TP re: coordination with Japanese Govt on PAR

Hi Margie – OPA has deferred this issue to OIP. Specifically, it seems the States are concerned with how the NRC came to their 50 mile decision. The perception among the states is that the NRC made this decision in a vacuum. They want us to provide them with a talking point on whether the U.S. coordinated with Japan before we issued the 50 mile directive.

Thanks for your help.

---

**From:** LIA04 Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** LIA02 Hoc; LIA03 Hoc  
**Cc:** OST05 Hoc  
**Subject:** RI Request on TP re: coordination with Japanese Govt on PAR

Please see Nancy McNamara's email below. OPA called back and said NRC coordinated with the Department of the State but that OIP should have awareness of the question and would be the better contact to craft/provide a talking point on this issue. RI is looking for a TP they can provide to the States.

Thanks, Alison  
State Liaison

NRC HQ Operations Center  
301-816-5193

---

**From:** LIA04 Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:41 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; McIntyre, David  
**Cc:** OST05 Hoc  
**Subject:** RI Request on TP re: coordination with Japanese Govt on PAR

Dave/Holly, please see highlight before. It is regarding the concern over the PAR recommendation from the angle of whether or not the U.S. government coordinated with Japan before issuance. Are the RSLOs able to convey any information to that effect. All the TPs and blog entries I have seen on this topic are regarding the 50 miles vs. 10 miles.

Thanks,

Alison Rivera  
State Liaison  
NRC HQ Operations Center  
301-816-5193

---

**From:** McNamara, Nancy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:30 PM  
**To:** LIA04 Hoc; OST05 Hoc  
**Cc:** Tift, Doug; Maier, Bill; Logaras, Haral; Trojanowski, Robert; Barker, Allan; Turtill, Richard  
**Subject:** Request for Consideration

Our states are still struggling with answering questions concerning the NRC making a PAR. One of the many concerns by the States is that during an event in the US, the NRC would publically issue a PAR disagreeing with the State's Protective Action Decision without discussing our disagreement with the State first. We all know that in theory, the expectation during a real event is that when the NRC is informed of the State's PAD and should we disagree with that PAD we would discuss it with the Governor or lead decision maker prior to going to the public.

(b)(5)

(b)(5) I don't believe this was the case. I understand we had discussions with the Japanese Govt and there was a mutual understanding between the US and Japan of our intentions.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Geof Koss <geofkoss@cqrollcall.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 9:56 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Modular reactor meeting

Hi Eliot: Can you tell me if next week's briefing on modular reactors is in any way related to Japan - or was it previously scheduled?

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/2011/>

thanks much,

Geof Koss  
Staff Writer  
Congressional Quarterly  
[geofkoss@cqrollcall.com](mailto:geofkoss@cqrollcall.com)  
Twitter: [CQEnergy](#)

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---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 8:19 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: media good news story

Sounds great. And, good news.

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
[Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov](mailto:Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 5:52 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** media good news story

Japan has accepted the machine designed from an idea the NRC had, built by Bechtel and delivered to Japan from Australia. It is a huge pump to get water to the plants and spent fuel pools. I am talking with the Bechtel flack about doing a press event in the DC area, hopefully tomorrow or over the weekend, at which an NRC person could appear to talk about the idea and how it all came together.

Just a heads up.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

**From:** EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 7:01 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Friday, March 25, 2011:

**In This E-Mail**

**Analysis: As GOP fumes, Obama moves to deflect energy criticism**

**Watchdog says EPA erred on coal ash risks**

**Breach feared in one of Japan's nuclear reactor cores**

**Investigator warns some nuclear plant defects go unreported**

**Probe concludes fed scientists erred on oyster claims**

**Ocean wind speeds, waves rise over last quarter century**

**Occidental boss earned \$76 million in 2010**

**CBO mulls mileage tax on drivers**

**FWS plan to delay endangered species petitions angers environmentalists**

**EPA's Jackson assures farmers no decision yet on dust regulations**

**Capps seeks to suspend re-licensing of California nuclear plant**

**State awards contract to improve energy efficiency**

**Japanese nuclear plant had long history of problems**

**Nuclear lobby faces setback after years of progress**

**Gore raises money for Democrats, highlights 'extreme' GOP climate agenda**

**Study: Road traffic pollution doubles risk of death after lung transplant**

**BP's Russian deal blocked by Swiss arbitrator**

China pursues new, radical design for nuclear reactors

Norwegian regulator questions Statoil leak

Daybook: Upcoming events

## Analysis: As GOP fumes, Obama moves to deflect energy criticism

By Edward Felker

When Congress is away, the White House takes advantage of the lull, and this week has been no different. Administration officials moved quickly to respond to high gas prices and the nuclear crisis in Japan.

Most notably, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar took high-profile steps to de-fang Republican attacks on the administration's energy policies.

Expect the administration to continue on the same tack for months to come, as the summer driving—and the presidential political season—heats up.

Salazar announced approval of the first new Gulf of Mexico offshore drilling plan, by Shell, under a new environmental review process that the industry feared would be too slow and cumbersome.

He granted Gulf deepwater drilling permits to ExxonMobil and Chevron, and traveled to Wyoming to appear with Republican Gov. Matt Mead to announce a series of coal mining lease sales on federal lands.

Meanwhile, Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko defended the safety of domestic nuclear power, and Chu showed no weakening of administration support for nuclear construction loan guarantees.

Jaczko quickly steered the NRC to start new reviews of domestic nuclear power plants in the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant failures, but avoided even the hint that the NRC would slow or suspend new plant applications and license renewals.

Republicans and the American Petroleum Institute came out swinging Thursday. They charged Democrats with trying to deflect blame for their energy policies with proposals to levy extra fees on oil leases that are not explored.

The battle over high gas prices is a perennial one in Washington, with both sides sticking to well-hewn scripts. Republicans will come back with their own agenda next week, including a possible Senate vote on federal greenhouse gas regulations.

Neither side can do much about gasoline prices in the short term, but that won't stop the White House—and the president's opponents—from fighting for the

high ground on the issue.

## Watchdog says EPA erred on coal ash risks

By Dylan Lovan

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — The government promoted some uses of coal ash, including wallboard or filler in road embankments, without properly testing the environmental risks, the Environmental Protection Agency's internal watchdog concludes.

The inspector general's report, released Wednesday, said sites where coal ash was used as wallboard "may represent a large universe of inappropriate disposal applications with unknown potential for adverse environmental and human health impacts."

EPA is considering imposing stricter regulations for coal ash, or fly ash, a byproduct of burning coal at power plants. The rule changes were prompted by a 2008 environmental disaster at a Tennessee power plant that released ash into a river and nearby lands.

EPA has said coal ash contains arsenic, selenium, lead and mercury in low concentrations, and those contaminants can pose health risks if they leach into groundwater.

EPA officials relied on state programs to approve beneficial uses of coal ash, the report said, and the federal agency never implemented its own plans set up in 2005 to determine environmentally safe uses. The report recommended the EPA establish new guidelines to determine beneficial uses, and investigate whether action is needed at sites where the substance has been used as structural filler.

Coal ash recyclers and manufacturers that use it have argued that tougher federal regulations would place a stigma on the substance and hinder efforts to reuse some of the 130 million tons produced at U.S. coal-fired power plants each year.

The EPA halted a program last year that promoted beneficial uses of coal ash, and took down a related website. The program, called the Coal Combustion Products Partnership, was started in 2001 with a goal of increasing the recycling of coal ash for use in other applications.

The EPA's proposed rule would deem coal ash hazardous waste, bringing it under direct federal enforcement. Under a second option, favored by the industry, the ash would be considered non-hazardous and regulation of standards set by the EPA would be left to the states.

Several public input hearings held around the country last year on the proposed

changes attracted hundreds of citizens, activists and energy and manufacturing workers.

## Breach feared in one of Japan's nuclear reactor cores

By The Associated Press

A suspected breach in the reactor core at one unit of a stricken Fukushima nuclear plant could mean more serious radioactive contamination, Japanese officials said Friday, revealing what may prove a major setback in the mission to bring the leaking plant under control.

The uncertain situation halted work Friday at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, where dozens had been working feverishly to stop the overheated plant from leaking dangerous radiation, officials said.

Suspensions of a possible breach were raised when two workers waded into water 10,000 times more radioactive than normal and suffered skin burns when the water splashed over their protective boots, the Nuclear and Industry Safety Agency said.

However, though damage cannot be ruled out, the cause remained unclear, spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama told reporters.

"It is possible there may be damage somewhere in the reactor," he said, adding later that there was no data suggesting there were any cracks and that a leak in the plumbing or the vents could be to blame.

The confusion was yet another setback to the urgent task of gaining control of the Fukushima nuclear plant 140 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo two weeks after a magnitude-9 quake triggered a tsunami that engulfed the facility and knocked out its crucial cooling system.

The plant has been releasing radiation, with elevated levels of radiation turning up in raw milk, seawater and 11 kinds of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower and turnips.

Tap water in several areas of Japan — including Tokyo — also tested with radiation levels considered unsafe for infants, who are particularly vulnerable to cancer-causing radioactive iodine, officials said.

## Investigator warns some nuclear plant defects go unreported

By The Associated Press

Companies that operate U.S. nuclear power plants are not telling the

government about some equipment defects that could create safety risks, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal watchdog warns.

An audit released Thursday by NRC's inspector general also raised questions about the agency's oversight, saying reporting guidelines for the nuclear industry are "contradictory and unclear."

Reflecting that confusion, the report said the NRC has not levied any civil penalties or significant enforcement actions against nuclear plant operators for lapses in reporting equipment defects in at least eight years.

The study comes as questions are raised about the safety of U.S. nuclear facilities in the wake of the nuclear crisis in Japan. The NRC voted Wednesday to conduct two safety reviews of the 104 nuclear reactors operating in the U.S.

Unless the NRC takes steps to improve its reporting guidelines, "the margin of safety for operating reactors could be reduced," the IG report said.

NRC inspectors found at least 24 instances where possible equipment defects were identified but not reported to the agency from December 2009 through September 2010, according to the study.

Eliot Brenner, a spokesman for the agency, said utilities and NRC inspectors both have procedures to identify and report manufacturing defects. The IG report mostly addresses how these defects are reported to the government, he said.

"The NRC has a variety of other regulations that effectively encompass reporting all defects, and the NRC continues to conclude plants are operating safely," Brenner said.

The agency will look at the report to see if its reporting systems can be strengthened, he added.

In its 18-page report, the inspector general said the NRC's baseline inspection program does not require inspectors to review an operator's reporting on equipment defects.

Confusion over the regulations "could reduce the margin of safety for operating nuclear power reactors, as NRC may remain unaware of component failures that have resulted from manufacturing defects," the report said.

For example, an operator might not report a basic component that failed due to a design defect. As a result, other operators that use the same component — and even component manufacturers — may be unaware of the problem, the report said. Without knowledge of specific manufacturing defects, the NRC could miss crucial trends, the report said.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., called the report troubling and said it raises

questions about the self-policing allowed at commercial nuclear plants.

"While there are no specific examples listed in the report, it is apparent that confusion and omissions regarding the reporting of defects at nuclear facilities are commonplace," Markey said.

A spokesman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, cautioned that the report did not identify any actual safety problems.

Reporting possible equipment defects, while important, "is one sliver within a much broader regulatory regimen that shows U.S. nuclear power plants are operating at high margins of safety," spokesman Steve Kerekes said.

Kerekes cited annual NRC reports dating to 2005 that show no "abnormal occurrences" throughout the U.S. nuclear energy industry. Abnormal occurrences are events that the agency considers threats to public health or safety.

## Probe concludes fed scientists erred on oyster claims

By The Associated Press

Errors were made but there was no criminal conduct by National Park Service scientists assessing the environmental impact of a disputed oyster farm in Northern California, a federal investigation has concluded.

The Interior Department's Solicitor's Office said the scientists made mistakes that eroded public confidence when studying whether the operation of Drakes Bay Oyster Co. hurt seal populations and the environment in the pristine waters of Point Reyes National Seashore.

"Specifically, several NPS employees mishandled research in the form of photographic images showing the activities of humans, birds and harbor seals at upper Drakes Estero," the Interior Department said Tuesday.

Interior's probe came after a separate study by the National Academy of Sciences found park service officials exaggerated the operation's negative impact on the environment. The academy's investigators did not receive some 250,000 surveillance photos showing the oyster boats' interaction with harbor seals.

At issue is whether the 71-year-old oyster farm — the only such facility in the Point Reyes National Seashore — can extend its lease, which runs out next year. The farm, which produces 40 percent of the state's commercial oysters, is located in a small bay tucked into the green coastal hills of the park, about 50 miles north of San Francisco.

The company has been in a feud for years with park officials who want to

convert the estuary to official wilderness. Later this year the park service is expected to release its draft environmental impact statement, which will help determine if the farm can stay.

"They were trying to figure out a way to scientifically support their beliefs that the farm was harming the environment," said Kevin Lunny, the farm's owner. "Our goal is not to get people in trouble or see heads roll, but this biased science material has made it into the environmental impact statement process."

Interior Department spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff said on Thursday the agency was ensuring that all appropriate actions are taken to address the issues the report identifies.

## Ocean wind speeds, waves rise over last quarter century

By Randolph E. Schmid

WASHINGTON (AP) — During the past quarter-century, average wind speeds have increased over the world's oceans, as have wave heights, generating rougher seas, researchers reported in a study published online Thursday.

Since faster winds cause more evaporation, the increase could lead to more water vapor in the air, compounding any increase from global warming and providing added moisture for rain. Generally, that means a higher chance for rainfall.

Researchers led by Ian Young of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia report in the journal *Science* that over a 23-year period, average wind speed over the oceans rose by 0.25 percent per year.

The proportion of increase in wave height was less than for wind speed, the researchers noted, while the increase for extreme winds was more than for average winds.

The researchers said the higher winds are not necessarily the result of global warming.

## Occidental boss earned \$76 million in 2010

By The Associated Press

Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s CEO, who has rankled some shareholders with his large pay packages, doubled his compensation last year, according to an Associated Press calculation of figures disclosed Thursday in a regulatory filing.

Chairman and CEO Ray Irani, who was America's sixth-highest paid CEO last year, received \$76.1 million in 2010. The bulk of his compensation came from stock and performance-based awards that were granted in 2007 and paid in

2010. Irani received a total of \$40.3 million in stock awards and \$31.6 million from a performance-based cash bonus.

Occidental also paid Irani a salary of \$1.19 million and a bonus of \$1.4 million. In addition, he received perks worth \$1.7 million, which include contributions to the company's savings and retirement plans.

The Los Angeles oil and gas producer said it ties executive compensation to company performance. Occidental's net income jumped 55 percent last year to \$4.53 billion. The company also increased oil and gas production by 5 percent to a company record of 753,000 barrels per day in 2010. It boosted shareholder dividends by 15 percent.

Under Irani's leadership, Occidental has become the fourth-largest U.S.-based oil company with a market value that's ballooned from \$9 billion in 2000 to \$80 billion in 2010.

### CBO mulls mileage tax on drivers

The Congressional Budget Office reports that taxing people based on how many miles they drive is a possible option for raising new federal revenues to offset the costs of highway maintenance during tough budget times, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

You can read the full report here.

[Read more](#)

### FWS plan to delay endangered species petitions angers environmentalists

A Fish and Wildlife Service proposal that would give the agency more leeway to delay considering new endangered species petitions is getting a chilly reception from environmentalists, Greenwire reports.

[Read more](#)

### EPA's Jackson assures farmers no decision yet on dust regulations

In an op-ed in the Fresno Bee, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson assured California farmers and ranchers there has been no decision made yet to further regulate farm dust and she will listen to industry concerns while studying the issue.

[Read more](#)

## Capps seeks to suspend re-licensing of California nuclear plant

Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., has asked regulators to suspend the relicensing process for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant until independent studies are performed and reviewed by state and federal experts, the Lompoc Record reports.

[Read more](#)

## State awards contract to improve energy efficiency

The State Department has awarded a 20-year contract to Constellation Energy Group of Baltimore to help the agency meet its energy reduction and efficiency goals, The Daily Record reports.

[Read more](#)

## Japanese nuclear plant had long history of problems

The crippled Japanese power plant at the heart of the world's worst nuclear crisis in a quarter-century has a history of operational and mechanical flaws, including a recent incident in which workers used the wrong plans to work on a reactor, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

## Nuclear lobby faces setback after years of progress

A decade-long lobbying effort to renew the nuclear energy industry has been suddenly set back by the Japanese reactor crisis, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

## Gore raises money for Democrats, highlights 'extreme' GOP climate agenda

Former Vice President Al Gore is asking Democratic activists to send donations to House Democrats' campaign arm to combat the climate agenda of "extreme elements in control of today's Republican Party," The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

## Study: Road traffic pollution doubles risk of death after lung transplant

Belgian researchers conclude that air pollution from car traffic may double the risk of organ rejection and death in lung transplant patients, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

You can read the full study here.

[Read more](#)

## BP's Russian deal blocked by Swiss arbitrator

BP suffered a setback in its efforts to remake itself in the wake of the Gulf oil spill on Thursday when a Swedish arbitrator blocked an \$8 billion stock swap and Arctic exploration agreement with the Russian company Rosneft, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

## China pursues new, radical design for nuclear reactors

China is building two nuclear reactors with a radically different design that is meant to decrease the chances of a meltdown, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

## Norwegian regulator questions Statoil leak

Norway's Petroleum Safety Authority on Thursday questioned Statoil's handling of a leak from an oil and gas field in the northern part of the Norwegian North Sea, Dow Jones reports.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

- Mar. 25, Gettysburg, Pa. : Interior Sec. Ken Salazar announces a new America's Great Outdoors conservation initiative at the Gettysburg National Military Park. 10:35 am, Gettysburg Visitors Center
- Mar. 25, Washington: Pew Center's Elliot Diringer, ASU Prof. Dan Bodansky brief reporters on upcoming UN climate conference in Durban, South Africa: An Evolving Climate Regime - Cancún and Beyond." 1:30 pm, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.

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**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:57 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Chandrathil, Prema  
**Subject:** Braidwood meeting

About 100 people came to the meeting - many of them pretty upset about events in Japan and the unusual event, seeking reassurance that they aren't facing the same danger as the people in Japan. We dealt with some intense emotions. I think we were able to provide at least some of them with a higher degree of confidence in their safety. No tv cameras though. All four local papers covered the meeting - Kankakee Daily Journal, Braidwood Journal, Morris Daily Herald and the News Herald.

Vika  
(Sent from my Blackberry)

---


**From:** Claude Cadoux <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:55 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: a tokyo health story for you

Eliot, thanks for this. I see why I can't see clearly now. I need to give them money I don't got for the subscription! It's the thought that counts, Eliot. C  
On Mar 24, 2011, at 1:06 PM, Brenner, Eliot wrote:

See below

---

**From:** E&E Publishing, LLC [mailto:eaalerts@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** March 24 -- Greenwire is ready



**AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE**

GREENWIRE -- THU., MARCH 24, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

**1. CLIMATE: Calif. regulators scramble in wake of court ruling on emissions law**  
  
California's climate change law is not in danger of outright reversal following a court decision this week that suspended it, but the deadline for approving a cap-and-trade carbon market later this year is in doubt, according to state government and legal experts following the process. If that deadline, which requires the state's Air Resources Board to vote on cap and trade in October, slips even one day into November, a ripple effect could delay greenhouse gas regulations set to go live on Jan. 1, 2012.

**TOP STORIES**

**2. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Psychological risks loom in Tokyo water warning**

**3. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Japan disaster raises questions about backup power at U.S. plants**

**4. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Earthquake risks must be reanalyzed for U.S. reactors**

**JAPAN EARTHQUAKE**

BU/947

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Radiation fears prompt stockpiling; 2 plant workers injured
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan spawns a fresh look at disaster planning on U.S.-Mexico border
7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japanese power demand can't be met without reactors, official says
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Politics, radiation levels will dictate return to Fukushima
9. **AUTOS:** Production of hybrids, electric vehicles hurt by Japan disaster
10. **FISHERIES:** Radiation fears slow Japanese seafood exports

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

11. **REGULATIONS:** EPA to tell Congress cutting black carbon is a 'win-win'

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## POLITICS

12. **CHEMICALS:** Uneasy industry awaits release of new EPA reporting rules
13. **CLIMATE:** Greenpeace TV ads target Upton
14. **ENERGY POLICY:** Home heating advocates ask Obama to release emergency funds

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## CLEAN TECH

15. **RARE EARTHS:** Countries jockey for critical elements leadership
16. **ETHANOL:** N.D. team visits Denmark for tips on building cellulosic refinery

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## ENERGY

17. **NUCLEAR:** NRC requests public comment on new GE reactor design
18. **NATURAL GAS:** Eagle Ford Shale landowners prepare for battle against Texas National Guard
19. **NATURAL GAS:** Palomar pipeline canceled for now
20. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Ohio regulators revive failed light bulb campaign

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## FEDERAL AGENCIES

- 21. **EPA:** Enviro groups protest Jackson on visit to Calif. farms
- 22. **BLM:** Utah man fined for fiery 'fundraiser' on public lands

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## TRANSPORTATION

- 23. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** N.C. lawmakers line up against federal funds

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## AIR AND WATER

- 24. **AIR POLLUTION:** EPA science advisers repeat call for stricter smog standard
- 25. **DRINKING WATER:** EPA launches S. Calif. perchlorate probe

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## NATURAL RESOURCES

- 26. **EVERGLADES:** Court lets Fla. off the hook for planned reservoir
- 27. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Wildfire ignited by volcano threatens Hawaiian rainforest
- 28. **INVASIVE SPECIES:** Ark. senator wants money for fish farmers hurt by carp transport ban

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## E&ETV'S ONPOINT

- 29. **ENERGY POLICY:** Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard

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**From:** Michael Tomaszeski <mtomaszeski@bulletinnews.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:52 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Bulletin News  
**Subject:** Re: just fyi, one to look for.

Eliot,

Thanks for the head's up. We will be sure to keep an eye out for tomorrow.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Eliot Brenner" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**To:** "Bulletin News" <NRC-Editors@BulletinNews.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 8:37:25 PM  
**Subject:** just fyi, one to look for.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 5:28 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** fyi - late tnt

I just got off the phone with an LA Times reporter writing about rad monitoring in the US. EPA will bear the brunt of this, as apparently they touted their online RadNet service last week, only to discover half of the stations were not functioning. Anklebiters are warning that there isn't any other federal monitoring system, and that if something happened at one of our plants, how would we know except for relying on the untrustworthy utilities?

My first answer was, 'Twitter.' I also explained that all plant licensees have permanent rad monitors onsite, some have offsite monitors, and that all licensees, states and localities have field teams that can deploy monitors during an event. I also reminded him that power plant events tend to be slow-developing, like the one in Japan, so that as we progress up the emergency event declaration scale, we would have time to deploy the field teams.

Thanks to Holly and Trish Milligan for help on this. Story should run tomorrow.

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
*Protecting People & the Environment*

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**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:07 PM  
**To:** Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Coggins, Angela; Warren, Roberta; Doane, Margaret  
**Subject:** Just to confirm

He spoke with NISA today but we are not doing a press release or public statement about it. Thanks

---

**From:** Hackett, Edwin  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:58 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Ruland, William  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Maureen Conley on containment accident pressure

Thanks Dave - I did not have a chance to return her call today and I know that Bill is in the Ops Center.

Ed

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** Ruland, William  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Hackett, Edwin  
**Subject:** Maureen Conley on containment accident pressure

Bill, Ed – Consider this closed. I spoke to Maureen and read her the nicer parts below.

Hi Maureen – Our reaction? Doesn't Lochbaum have anything better to do than rehash every old gripe he's ever come up with? He really needs to invest in some underpants that are a little less tight.

Now –We remain confident that our regulations provide adequate defense in depth. Our primary concern was, is and always shall be protection of public health and safety, not the industry's bottom line, and it is irresponsible for Mr. Lochbaum and his ilk to waste the valuable time of journalists by throwing cockamamie brickbats at devoted and loyal public servants.

You may consider that last paragraph on the record, right up to and including " ... not the industry's bottom line."

Dave

**From:** Maureen Conley [mailto:(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:10 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** left you a voice message

In case you are incommunicado upstairs...I'm hoping to get some reaction today to comments by UCS/Dave Lochbaum regarding containment accident pressure. He is saying it's bad idea because it gets rid of defense-in-depth, so that if the containment were to fail, there would be no way to keep the coolant from boiling, which would keep the pumps from being able to circulate it following a LOCA.

From a transcript of his comments:

When the business owners wanted 20 percent more power, make more money, the NRC threw out Safety Guide 1 and went with this cockamamy containment overpressure thing that might work, but might not work as well.

So, it was disgraceful for the NRC to do that. It's put millions of Americans at undue and elevated risk, and it was done simply for business purposes instead of safety. The NRC's own Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is vehemently against that concept, but the NRC's bowing to industry pressure, putting financial motives ahead of public safety, and there's no excuse for doing that.

So I am looking for NRC reaction. I've left voice messages for Bill Ruland and Ed Hackett, but wanted to cover my bases in case they are involved in fire drills today...

Maureen Conley

(b)(6)

---

**From:** ANS.HOC@nrc.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:19 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** ACTION: Commissioners Assistants Briefing Notification  
**Attachments:** USNRC Earthquake-Tsunami Update.032411.1800EDT.pdf

There will be a Commissioners Assistants Briefing given by the NRC HQ at 2000 EDT on 3/24/11 concerning the Reactor Events in Japan. Call (b)(6) approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled start time. When prompted, enter security code (b)(6). You may call 301-816-5164 at this time and follow the voice prompts if you do not wish to receive this notification from our Automatic Notification System..

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:02 PM  
**To:** Power, Stephen  
**Subject:** RE: Quick question

Give me your number.

---

**From:** Power, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:51 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Quick question

Can you confirm the following?

The containment vessels at the Fukushima plant are filling up with salt. This could have negative implications for the stabilization effort. As sea water boils off, sea salt will be left behind, coating the fuel rods and preventing them from being cooled as efficiently. The salt will also physically fill up the containment vessel, so water can't get in in the first place.

With kind regards,

Stephen Power  
Staff Reporter  
The Wall Street Journal  
Office: (202) 862-9269  
Cell: (b)(6)  
Email: [Stephen.Power@wsj.com](mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com)  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenlpower>

Bu/952

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:31 PM  
**To:** Magwood, William  
**Subject:** Re: Fox

Must be why they are fair and balanced! Will try tgo reach out to fix. Tnx.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Magwood, William  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 24 18:12:11 2011  
**Subject:** Fox

I just saw a Fox News ticker - they think this is an NRC report.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 24 17:15:22 2011  
**Subject:** Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution~~  
~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: JAPAN STUFF -- The onslaught continues on a number of fronts, starting with:

IG REPORT -- The IG's office posted a report covering issues with the documenting of defects in nuclear plant systems. It started getting traction Thursday morning. Staff worked with OPA to craft a response given to all reporters who asked and posted to the NRC blog for a rapid response. The story will get wide play in the mainstream and trade press.

DIABLO CANYON -- We fielded calls from KSBY-TV in San Luis Obispo, the Associated Press in San Francisco and a Japanese newspaper correspondent based in Los Angeles about a letter issued by Congresswoman Lois Capps requesting NRC halt its review of the plant's license renewal application.  
<http://www.ksby.com/news/rep-capps-calls-on-nrc-to-suspend-license-renewal-of-diablo-canyon/>

BRAIDWOOD -- The Braidwood annual community meeting is tonight. Timing is everything. During preplanned maintenance on Unit 2 control room alarm cabinets, more annunciators were lost than expected (over 75 percent) Maintenance was terminated and the annunciators were restored. The plant was operating at 100% power and remained stable during and after this event. The Unusual Event was terminated and an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the event. Thanks, fellas.

INDIAN POINT -- Reporters for the PBS channel in New York, had multiple questions on the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and how it might work at Indian Point. Also, the Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) is working on a story on spent fuel storage and had several related questions. The paper also asked us to help

fact-check a graphic that would run with the piece. In addition, Westchester Magazine wanted to know more about the MSNBC.COM seismic ranking of Indian Point and our approach to EPZs. Our recent blog posts on both came in handy. Also, the New York Daily News continues to pepper us with a variety of questions on Indian Point, in areas that include emergency preparedness and NRC-granted exemptions.

BECHTEL DEVICE – OPA was contacted by Bechtel corporate communications (Frederick, MD) for advice on how to talk about a pumping device, apparently dreamed up by the NRC and constructed in Australia by Bechtel, when word of its presence in Japan breaks. Our advice was to do a press event in the DC area – if the Japanese government formally requests the use of the machine -- to talk about the device's creation, mentioning the NRC role, and that we would take questions as necessary regarding our role. OPA explained our current public affairs posture in terms of saying, through NRC staff in Japan only if asked, that our role is to support the Embassy and the Japanese authorities working this problem.

## 2: OTHER STUFF, related and unrelated –

SAN ONOFRE – We responded to a request for information via e-mail from a CBS-TV Evening News producer for Katie Couric on a story in preparation. The network wanted to know about the Chilling Effect letter, the high number of allegations from the site, safety conscious work environment issues, the current performance of both units information about “equipment violations” and changes at the plant during the past two years.

WATTS BAR 2 – The TVA IG and the US Attorney in Eastern Tennessee today announced the indictment of a former worker at Watts Bar Unit 2 for allegedly falsifying paperwork related to electrical cables. Region II OPA acknowledged to reporters from FOX News, ABC, the AP and the Chattanooga Times-Free Press that although this investigation was separate, the NRC is aware of the situation and is also reviewing the issue.

TMI - Local citizens are planning to hold a vigil at Three Mile Island's North Gate on Monday to mark the 32nd anniversary of the TMI-2 accident. About 20 people are expected to be in attendance. The vigil is expected to last from 3:30 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. but could extend longer.

BROWNS FERRY – TVA is taking 50-60 reporters through Browns Ferry on Friday. We expect this to be heavily attended by the networks and major media (NYTimes is signed up). The Browns Ferry units are similar to the one's in Japan, GE Mark I BWRs.

OYSTER CREEK – An environmental group told the Chicago Tribune our review of the Oyster Creek license renewal application was flawed. We explained why we do not believe that to be the case, citing the many elements of the review.

EMERGENCY PLANNING – The News Journal (of Wilmington, Del.) inquired about the updating of Evacuation Time Estimates for nuclear power plants. We were able to speak to what our new EP rules would require in that area.

SEABROOK – The Newburyport (Mass.) Daily News plans to write something on the ASLB order earlier this week allowing Massachusetts to participate in the Seabrook license renewal proceeding as an interested governmental entity. The story would also touch on the reviews planned by the NRC in response to the Japan reactor events.

BEAVER VALLEY – The Beaver County (Pa.) Times is working on a story about spent fuel storage in general and specifically at the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant. The reporter also asked for information on the plant's seismic capabilities.

ROBINSON – About 65 people attended the annual assessment meeting for the Robinson plant to hear the plant had been moved to column 3 of the action matrix. Reporters from the Associated Press in Columbia, the Hartsville Messenger, and crews from WMBF-TV and WPDE-TV covered the meeting. The Robinson plant has traditionally had very few people attend annual assessment meetings and the events in Japan have obviously heightened the interest far beyond previous levels.

Press releases and speeches posted

NRC Seeks Comment on Proposed Rule to Certify GE-Hitachi ESBWR Reactor Design

NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet April 7-9 in Rockville, Md.

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 5:03 PM  
**To:** 'william\_freebairn@platts.com'; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** 'Steven\_Dolley@platts.com'  
**Subject:** Re: licensing implications of fukushima

Eliot does.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Freebairn, William <william\_freebairn@platts.com>  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Dolley, Steven <Steven\_Dolley@platts.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 24 16:57:21 2011  
**Subject:** RE: licensing implications of fukushima

Thanks, just to keep bugging you, do you guys have any comment on the OIG report about Part 21 rules being unsatisfactory?

Appreciate it.

Bill

**William Freebairn**  
Senior Editor/Platts  
(202) 383-2164

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:42 PM  
**To:** Freebairn, William  
**Cc:** Dolley, Steven  
**Subject:** RE: licensing implications of fukushima

Hi All;

The NRO staff's current schedule continues to call for final decisions on certifying the amended AP1000 later this year and the ESBWR by the end of the year. It is yet to be determined if events in Japan and the NRC's review of them will have any impacts on those schedules.

I'm checking on the TI. Thanks.

Scott

---

**From:** Freebairn, William [mailto:william\_freebairn@platts.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Dolley, Steven  
**Subject:** RE: licensing implications of fukushima

Thanks, Scott, if you send via e-mail can you be sure to copy Steve Dolley, since I will be heading off to Browns Ferry in an hour and may not be able to check e-mail tomorrow morning.

Bill

**William Freebairn**

Senior Editor/Platts  
(202) 383-2164

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:58 AM  
**To:** Freebairn, William  
**Subject:** RE: licensing implications of fukushima

Hi Bill;

I'll get you what I can as soon as I can. Thanks in advance for your patience.

Scott

---

**From:** Freebairn, William [mailto:william\_freebairn@platts.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:52 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** licensing implications of fukushima

Hi Scott, we're doing a story for Inside NRC on what the implications of the Fukushima review are on licensing actions such as renewals, design certifications and COLs. I am quoting some people saying NRC is likely to pause in making those decisions, others say the issuance of the Vermont Yankee renewal and the ESBWR rule publication are signs you will go forward with no change to schedules. Do you expect to continue licensing reviews as per previously issues schedules? Could resource requirements from the Fukushima reviews force some delays?

On a somewhat separate topic, we were wondering if there is a temporary instruction yet on these Fukushima implications and whether we could get a copy.

I'm working on a tight deadline today, so would need a response by 5 at the latest on the licensing question.

Thanks

Bill

**William Freebairn**

Senior Editor  
Platts Nuclear Publications  
(202) 383-2164  
[www.platts.com](http://www.platts.com)

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**From:** Dricks, Victor  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:59 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Howell, Art; Collins, Elmo  
**Cc:** Uselding, Lara

SAN ONOFRE – We responded to a request for information via e-mail from a CBS-TV Evening News producer for Katie Couric on a story in preparation. The network wanted to know about the Chilling Effect letter, the high number of allegations from the site, safety conscious work environment issues, the current performance of both units, information about “equipment violations” and changes at the plant during the past two years.

DIABLO CANYON – We fielded calls from KSBY-TV in San Luis Obispo, the Associated Press in San Francisco and a Japanese newspaper correspondent based in Los Angeles about a letter issued by Congresswoman Lois Capps requesting NRC halt its review of the plant’s license renewal application.

Bu/955

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:26 PM  
**To:** Dricks, Victor  
**Subject:** RE: press release for review

Ok.

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**From:** Dricks, Victor  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:17 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** press release for review  
**Importance:** High

BU1956

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**From:** Hannah, Roger  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:25 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly  
**Cc:** Ledford, Joey  
**Subject:** TNTs from the south  
**Attachments:** image001.png

ROBINSON – About 65 people attended the annual assessment meeting for the Robinson plant to hear the plant had been moved to column 3 of the action matrix. Reporters from the Associated Press in Columbia, the Hartsville Messenger, and crews from WMBF-TV and WPDE-TV covered the meeting. The Robinson plant has traditionally had very few people attend annual assessment meetings and the events in Japan have obviously heightened the interest far beyond previous levels.

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**Roger Hannah, APR**  
*Senior Public Affairs Officer*  
*Region II -- Atlanta, Ga.*  
*Office - 404-997-4417*  
*Cell - (b)(6)*  
[roger.hannah@nrc.gov](mailto:roger.hannah@nrc.gov)



---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:13 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** gotone for you

From the left coast: what regulations are there on the export of spent fuel for reprocessing? Comes from a Mark Grosky at the Fresno Bee, 559-441-6316. He left a voicemail on my cell phone ([REDACTED] (b)(5)) saying in his calls he couldn't find anyone who shipped fuel aboard ... but he wanted to check.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

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**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:54 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** TNT items

INDIAN POINT – A reporter for the web site for PBS Channel 13, the NPR-TV station in New York City, had multiple questions on the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and how it might work at Indian Point. Also, the Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) is working on a story on spent fuel storage and had several related questions. The paper also asked us to help fact-check a graphic that would run with the piece. In addition, Westchester Magazine wanted to know more about the MSNBC.COM seismic ranking of Indian Point and our approach to EPZs. Our recent blog posts on both came in handy. Also, the New York Daily News continues to pepper us with a variety of questions on Indian Point, in areas that include emergency preparedness and NRC-granted exemptions.

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BEAVER VALLEY – The Beaver County (Pa.) Times is working on a story about spent fuel storage in general and specifically at the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant. The reporter also asked for information on the plant's seismic capabilities.

Bu/959

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Talking Point for State Liaison People

State liaison folks want to know what to say about radiation readings, etc. Can I give them this:

(b)(5)

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**From:** Marvin Fertel <mf@nei.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:29 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Nuclear Energy Industry's 2011 Annual Conference



Dear Colleague:

In just a few short weeks, the Nuclear Energy Institute will hold its annual conference, the Nuclear Energy Assembly, in Washington, D.C. I'm enclosing an advance program for the conference.

This year's Nuclear Energy Assembly will be the first major international nuclear energy industry conference since the tragic events in Japan at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Like you, despite recent events in Japan, I am as committed to nuclear energy as ever. I am convinced as ever that adequate electricity supply is an absolute imperative – to drive the world's great economies and lift out of poverty the billions of people who have no access to commercial sources of energy. I know that nuclear energy must be, and will be, a growing part of our energy portfolio for decades to come.

In a very real sense, this year's Nuclear Energy Assembly will serve as a platform from which we launch our future.

Please join us, as an industry with key policy and decision makers, in this important conversation about the future of nuclear energy. I look forward to seeing you in Washington in May.

Sincerely,



Marvin S. Fertel



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe

Bu/961

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**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Heads up- NRC story  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Huff Post on the IG report.

---

**From:** Culp, Lisa  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:58 PM  
**To:** Smith, James; McIntyre, David; Ruffin, Steve; Benney, Brian; Stablein, King  
**Cc:** Culp, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: Heads up- NRC story

This is a new NRC story. Note comments to it. Things to think about re Q&As, public meetings, etc.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/03/24/us-nuclear-equipment-defects-ig-nrc-report\\_n\\_840052.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/03/24/us-nuclear-equipment-defects-ig-nrc-report_n_840052.html)

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**From:** Smith, James  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:30 PM  
**To:** Hannah, Roger; McIntyre, David; Culp, Lisa  
**Cc:** Harrington, Holly; Couret, Ivonne; Campbell, Larry; Marcano, Jonathan; Sykes, Marvin; Romano, Michelle; Tschiltz, Michael; Kinneman, John; Gody, Tony; Cobey, Eugene; Hiltz, Thomas; Reilly, Breeda; Liu, Tilda; Thompson, Richard; Diaz, Marilyn; Rodriguez, Rafael; Baker, Merritt; Ramsey, Kevin; Smith, Brian; Johnson, Timothy; Johnson, Robert; Naquin, Tyrone; Ryder, Christopher; Tiktinsky, David; Mattern, Kevin; Ramsey, Kevin; Morrissey, Kevin; Siurano-Perez, Osiris; Downs, James  
**Subject:** RE: Heads up- Qs&As for Seismic Events at Fuel Cycle Facilities

Hi Roger, David, and Lisa-

See attached draft. It is a preliminary set of talking points for members of our staff who may be questioned about the vulnerabilities of our Fuel Cycle Facilities to Seismic and other natural events at public meetings in the near future. It is not intended for public release, but to be used only as a reference resource for our staff in the field. Although it is still draft and we are gathering more information, we'd like your feedback on the general nature of the document as well as any recommendations you may have for improvement.

Thanks,

Jim Smith

**James Smith**

Technical Assistant  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Division of Fuel Cycle, Safety and Safeguards  
MS E32C40M  
Washington, DC 20555  
James.Smith@nrc.gov  
(301) 492-3234 Work  
(b)(6) Blackberry



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**From:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:44 AM  
**To:** Smith, James  
**Cc:** McIntyre, David; Harrington, Holly; Hannah, Roger  
**Subject:** RE: Heads up- Qs&As for Seismic Events at Fuel Cycle Facilities

Jim,  
David McIntyre and Roger Hannah are best equipped to examine these. I have included them in this email. I would also encourage re-examination of the NMSS Information Digest section to see if we need to enhance verbiage to be more inclusive for public concerns on these issues.

**Ivonne L. Couret**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Public Affairs  
Media Desk  
[opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov)  
301-415-8200

Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

---

**From:** Smith, James  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:36 AM  
**To:** Couret, Ivonne; Culp, Lisa  
**Cc:** Campbell, Larry; Bailey, Marissa; Marciano, Jonathan; Romano, Michelle; Sykes, Marvin  
**Subject:** Heads up- Qs&As for Seismic Events at Fuel Cycle Facilities

Ivonne and Lisa-

In light of the recent events in Japan, FCSS/NMSS and RII are developing a list of Qs&As for expected effects and responses to Seismic Events (and other natural phenomenon) at Fuel Cycle Facilities to be used by NRC staff in addressing concerns that the public may bring up during public meetings in the near future, the NFS LPR being the next one I am aware of.

After we have put the data and information together, would you two take a look to see if there is anything you would add from the PA/Communications point of view, remembering that these will be official use only and that there is no plan to distribute them to the press.

The plan is to have these finalized and to Cathy Haney by next Wednesday. I plan to have the drafts done sometime after 1pm today. Ivonne, if you are unavailable to take a look, can you recommend someone else from OPA who may be able to assist.

Thanks

**James Smith**

Technical Assistant

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Division of Fuel Cycle, Safety and Safeguards

HS ES2C40M

Washington, DC 20555

James.Smith@nrc.gov

(301) 492-3234 Work

(b)(6) Blackberry



---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:01 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** FW: Sandia report

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:18 PM  
**To:** 'dcappiello@ap.org'  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Sandia report

Dina: I understand you may have been playing a bit of telephone tag with a variety of government flacks over a Sandia-generated report from 2006, otherwise known by the catchy title of Nureg/CR-6906. NNSA asked me to close the loop with you.

While Sandia did the report, they did so under contract to us so we own it, so to speak. In summary, this report discusses containment pressure tests done on scale models of several containment types, BUT NOT the BWR Mark 1. The results suggest the containments are stronger than expected and can withstand much higher accident pressures than they have been designed for. The report HAS NO BEARING on issues of containment failure in the event the reactor vessel is breeched.

That's about all I know about it on short notice.

Eliot Brenner

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:54 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: brian anderson

Woo hoo

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:25 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** brian anderson

Is now assigned to us exclusively for the next four weeks.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

. Yay.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:49 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11

OK, thanks.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:45 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11

Beth will take this one.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:42 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11

We're all flat-out, including you, as you sent this to my personal email. I'll do this if Scott is handing the UCS/Containment accident pressure charges.

---

**From:** (b)(6) **On Behalf Of** Dave McIntyre  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:36 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 24, 2011 at 1:32 PM  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11  
**To:** Dave McIntyre <(b)(6)>

David: Is this something you can take on?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:28 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth

Subject: FW: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11  
Importance: High

We need a press release, I'm the best option, but I'm flat-out with existing stuff. Perhaps Dave?

-----Original Message-----

From: Mensah, Tanya

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:23 PM

To: McIntosh, Angela; Doolittle, Elizabeth; Sullivan, Frederick; Tabatabai, Omid

Cc: Hawes, Cathy; Rosenberg, Stacey; Hilton, Nick; Hill, Leslie; Donnell, Tremaine; QTE Resource; Burnell, Scott; OGCMailCenter Resource; Banic, Merrilee; Russell, Andrea

Subject: URGENT ACTION: NRR Issuance of a RIS Related to The Japan Earthquake By 3/25/11

Good afternoon:

NRR/DPR was assigned to develop a RIS today (it is due tomorrow). The only information that I have at the moment is the intent of the RIS (see below). Dave Beaulieu and Tom Alexion have the lead to develop the RIS. Tom Alexion plans to send a draft RIS to you all (or to a POC that you designate) either late today, or early tomorrow, with concurrence requested by 2:30 pm tomorrow (Friday) afternoon, if possible.

NRR may need a POC from your Office to concur on the RIS. The NRR technical leads have not yet identified the addressees that would be impacted and are still working on the RIS. Thus, if you believe your licensees would be impacted by issuance of this RIS (based upon the intent provided below), please advise us so that you can be added on concurrence. If you are not sure and need to see the draft prior to making a decision, that is fine. Please be sure to confirm with Tom who the POC is for your Office.

As soon as Tom has a draft available, he will forward it to you or the POC that you designate. In the meantime, please advise your senior management, as NRR will need expedited support (if the RIS is applicable to your licensees) to facilitate parallel concurrence.

I am also copying the contacts that normally review and concur on a RIS from OGC, OE, PMDA, OIS, and technical editor. OPA is copied for awareness only.

## INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to request that addressees with on-going environmental monitoring programs voluntary report to the NRC confirmed anomalous environmental radioactivity measurements likely caused by radioactive material released by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan following the March 11, 2011, Tohoku-Taiheiyoku-Oki earthquake. This magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the subsequent tsunami caused significant damage to at least four of the six units of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station as the result of a sustained loss of both the offsite and on-site power systems. The information collected will be used to enhance the Federal and state monitoring programs.

Thanks again for your time and support,

Tanya Mensah, Generic Communications Program Manager  
301-415-3610

---

**From:** Watson, Madonna  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:43 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Temporary NRC Employment

Thanks Ken – I received your fax.

I'll be contacting you when Security has approved your clearance.

Madonna

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:25 PM  
**To:** Watson, Madonna  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Temporary NRC Employment

I faxed to you this morning the completed bank deposit information and understand that my verbal and email acknowledgement and acceptance of the employment offer letter has been received. I also overnighted the security questionnaire and other information to arrive by 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

I failed to include the completed fingerprint card, which I am on the way now to also overnight it to NRC security..

I will be in the city or its environs for the next several days.

My home phone number is (b)(6) and my cell phone number is (b)(6)

Thank you for your assistance.

Ken Clark

Bu/968


---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** claude cadoux  
**Subject:** a tokyo health story for you

See below

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**From:** E&E Publishing, LLC [mailto:eaalerts@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** March 24 -- Greenwire is ready



**AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE**

GREENWIRE -- THU., MARCH 24, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

**1. CLIMATE: Calif. regulators scramble in wake of court ruling on emissions law**

California's climate change law is not in danger of outright reversal following a court decision this week that suspended it, but the deadline for approving a cap-and-trade carbon market later this year is in doubt, according to state government and legal experts following the process. If that deadline, which requires the state's Air Resources Board to vote on cap and trade in October, slips even one day into November, a ripple effect could delay greenhouse gas regulations set to go live on Jan. 1, 2012.

**TOP STORIES**

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Psychological risks loom in Tokyo water warning

3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan disaster raises questions about backup power at U.S. plants

4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Earthquake risks must be reanalyzed for U.S. reactors

**JAPAN EARTHQUAKE**

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Radiation fears prompt stockpiling; 2 plant workers injured

6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan spawns a fresh look at disaster planning on U.S.-Mexico border

7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japanese power demand can't be met without reactors,

BU/967

official says

8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Politics, radiation levels will dictate return to Fukushima

9. **AUTOS:** Production of hybrids, electric vehicles hurt by Japan disaster

10. **FISHERIES:** Radiation fears slow Japanese seafood exports

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22. **BLM:** Utah man fined for fiery 'fundraiser' on public lands

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25. **DRINKING WATER:** EPA launches S. Calif. perchlorate probe

## NATURAL RESOURCES

26. **EVERGLADES:** Court lets Fla. off the hook for planned reservoir
27. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Wildfire ignited by volcano threatens Hawaiian rainforest
28. **INVASIVE SPECIES:** Ark. senator wants money for fish farmers hurt by carp transport ban

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29. **ENERGY POLICY:** Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 12:49 PM  
**To:** Sanfilippo, Nathan; Miller, Charles  
**Cc:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: Press release for task force

Thanks Nathan;

We'll time the release to when the charter is final – keep me in the loop, please.

Scott

---

**From:** Sanfilippo, Nathan  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 12:47 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Press release for task force

Scott,

I'll be your POC for a press release about the task force. The task force (which reports to Marty) kicked things off this morning and consists of:

Charlie Miller, Lead  
Jack Grobe  
Gary Holahan  
Bruce Mallett (b)(5)  
Nathan Sanfilippo  
(perhaps another to be named)

We should have a charter early next week. Let me know what I can do to help put together a release.

Thanks,  
Nathan

BU/968

---

**From:** Farrington, John  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:33 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: information for temporary hires

Got it.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:31 AM  
**To:** Farrington, John; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Re: information for temporary hires

Unfortunately, the first string of these e-mails was erroneously sent to my home e-mail address. If you can try to communicate to [holly.harrington@nrc.gov](mailto:holly.harrington@nrc.gov) that would be appreciated!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Farrington, John <John.Farrington@nrc.gov>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**Cc:** Holly Harrington <(b)(6)>; Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thu, Mar 24, 2011 11:09 am  
**Subject:** RE: information for temporary hires

Eliot,

The EDO signed the waiver for the temporary hires for OPA. Please insure that your office coordinates closely with Dawn Powell in HR, and Valerie Kerben in Personnel Security, as well as keeping me in the loop. Preliminary work on bringing these 5 on board was already underway, prior to the EDO signing the waiver.

Pursuant to our conversation last Friday, you will try to make do with the 5 temporary hires we discussed, and you will give me an early heads up if you think 1-2 more may be needed.

Also, as we discussed, if you think you may need to extend any of the 5 temporary beyond 59 days, it is critical that you give me as much advance notice as possible.

If you or your staff has questions, please let me know.

John

From: Brenner, Eliot  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:16 PM  
To: Farrington, John  
Cc: Holly Harrington; Hayden, Elizabeth  
Subject: information for temporary hires

John: the person shepherding this for us is Holly Harrington,  
301-415-8203

(b)(6)

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Laura Scheele <lscheele@ans.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** cpiercy@bosepublicaffairs.com  
**Subject:** ANS - Crisis Communications

Thank you for the communications in the early hours of the Fukushima events occurring. Although events overtook our planning process for ANS crisis communications, the preliminary groundwork we laid was extremely helpful in terms of the American Nuclear Society response. That said, ANS has its work cut out in terms of formalizing processes and procedures to be better prepared going forward.

When we met last month, you mentioned that I would be invited to observe the annual emergency planning exercise. What do you need from me in order to make that happen? This is now a very high priority within ANS, and we very much would the opportunity to examine the plans we are still in the process of developing.

Sincerely,

Laura Scheele  
American Nuclear Society  
Phone: (708) 579-8224  
ANS Nuclear Cafe Blog: <http://ansnuclearcafe.org>

BU/970 1

**From:** Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 8:11 AM  
**To:** Jaczko, Gregory; Svinicki, Kristine; Apostolakis, George; Magwood, William; Ostendorff, William; Weber, Michael; Borchardt, Bill  
**Cc:** Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Bradford, Anna; Loyd, Susan; Sharkey, Jeffry; Sosa, Belkys; Bubar, Patrice; Nieh, Ho; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: eWASH WH0144  
**Attachments:** 4411001772ewash.pdf

Summary of Conclusions from March 21 Deputies meeting on Japan.

**From:** eWash-WHSR [mailto: (b)(6) ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:22 PM  
**To:** ewash@state.gov; (b)(6) Ekaterini Malliou (HHS Executive Secretariat); HHSComSec@hhs.gov; HHSExecSec@hhs.gov ; DOE.Commcenter@in.doe.gov; CommCenterStaff@hq.dhs.gov; (b)(6) NRCHQ  
**Cc:** eWash-WHSR  
**Subject:** eWASH WH0144

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**

<b>FROM:</b>	<b>NSS</b>	<b>PH:</b>	(b)(6)	<b>ROOM:</b>	<b>5013</b>
<b>SUBJECT: SOC for 21 March Deputies-level Meeting PAGES: 5</b>					
<b>on Japan Earthquake</b>					

**PLEASE DELIVER TO:**

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DELIVER TO</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
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DEFENSE	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY		
DHHS	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY		
ENERGY	DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT		
DHS	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY		

JCS	SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS (J-5)		
NRC	SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION		

**SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:**

Please deliver to Deputies

NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

(b)(5)

Attachment

Tab A Summary of Conclusions

001772

NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Screnci, Diane  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:57 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: questions for later

(b)(5)

Diane Screnci  
Sr. Public Affairs Officer  
USNRC, RI  
610/337-5330

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:57 AM  
**To:** Screnci, Diane  
**Subject:** RE: questions for later

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Screnci, Diane  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:56 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** questions for later

Eliot,

There are a couple of things that you've done over the last week that I don't know how to do.

First, I don't know how to arrange for a pool tv crew.

Second, I don't know how to get someone on the Sunday morning shows.

In the future, when this has calmed down, maybe we can discuss.

Diane Screnci  
Sr. Public Affairs Officer  
USNRC, RI  
610/337-5330

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:45 AM  
**To:** laura.j.brown@faa.gov  
**Subject:** i feel your pain

(b)(5)

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

**From:** EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of  
EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:20 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Thursday,  
March 24, 2011:

**In This E-Mail**

**NRC presses forward with U.S. safety reviews**  
**EPA pressures Midwest coal-burning utilities**  
**Workers injured at Japan nuclear plant, rationing begins**  
**Germany presses ahead with plan to abandon nuclear power**  
**Chu predicts clean energy to be cost competitive by end of decade**  
**EPA's top air regulator faces GOP critics at Houston hearing**  
**Japanese nuclear plan dismissed concerns about tsunami**  
**Pawlenty calls past cap-and-trade support stupid**  
**Granholm: Pew campaign to focus on jobs, not climate change**  
**Houston firm helps oil slick cleanup, denies old well involved**  
**Lobbying intensifies as Maryland offshore wind vote nears**  
**Europe worries Japan won't meet climate pledge after nuclear crisis**  
**Arctic ice ties winter record for smallest size**  
**Conoco to shed billions in buyback effort**  
**Japanese regulator says nuclear power's growth won't slow**  
**Nepal develops plan to end severe energy shortages**  
**Daybook: Upcoming events**

## NRC presses forward with U.S. safety reviews

By Edward Felker

Less than a week after President Barack Obama ordered a sweeping review, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun examinations of the nation's 104 nuclear power reactors that could impose additional safety regulations.

NRC approved the plan Wednesday to conduct 90-day and six-month reviews following its presentation to the five-member panel on Monday.

In a statement, NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko said information from the Fukushima plant disaster in Japan will be used to consider immediate safety changes, and the longer-term review will be used to consider permanent new regulations.

"Examining all the available information from Japan is essential to understanding the event's implications for the United States. We will perform a systematic and methodical review to see if there are changes that should be made to our programs and regulations to ensure protection of public health and safety," he said.

A task force of current and former NRC staff will conduct both reviews. Interim reports are to be made to the commission after 30 days and 60 days at newly-scheduled public meetings in May and June.

Bill Borchardt, the NRC executive director for operations, said the 90-day review "will help determine if any additional NRC responses, such as orders requiring immediate action by U.S. plants, are called for, prior to completing an in-depth investigation of the information from events in Japan."

The commission said it will also hold public meetings on April 14 and April 28 to get status reports on NRC's assistance to Japan in responding to the Fukushima cooling systems failures and radiation releases.

The task force will transition to a six-month review that will generate recommended regulation changes, NRC said.

The reviews come as attention shifts to the ability of U.S. plants to operate after the catastrophic loss of electrical power from an earthquake, flood or other disaster.

Jaczko has stressed that plants have been designed and upgraded to withstand known threats, including terrorist attacks, and that additional backup power requirements have been ordered since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Still, concerns over the response plans that include evacuation of potentially millions of people living near plants in New York and California have raised

questions about the preparedness for an unexpected radiation release.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for the closure of Indian Point station, near New York City.

California Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, both Democrats, have urged that the NRC take "immediate action" on their call for new reviews of the potential earthquake damage to the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon stations.

## EPA pressures Midwest coal-burning utilities

By Ed White

MONROE, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan utility spent \$65 million last year replacing key equipment at the state's largest coal-fired power plant. But now federal regulators have taken DTE Energy to court alleging the utility should have spent millions more to reduce air pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency's case against DTE Energy isn't an isolated one. The government is aggressively suing electric utilities across the Midwest to get them to install the latest technology to capture smog-causing emissions.

DTE says last year's work at Monroe Unit 2 was just routine maintenance. But the EPA says it should have been the time to install pollution controls to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

DTE says that job already is in the works and should be completed by 2014. A trial is set for fall.

## Workers injured at Japan nuclear plant, rationing begins

By The Associated Press

Shops across Tokyo began rationing goods — milk, toilet paper, rice and water — as a run on bottled water coupled with delivery disruptions left shelves bare Thursday nearly two weeks after a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Anxiety over food and water remained high a day after Tokyo officials reported that radioactive iodine in the city's tap water measured more than twice the level considered safe for babies.

Radiation has been leaking from a nuclear plant 140 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo since it was struck by the March 11 quake and engulfed by the ensuing tsunami. Feverish efforts to get the plant's crucial cooling system back in operation have been beset by explosions, fire and radiation scares.

On Thursday, two workers at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant suffered injuries

when their feet came in contact with radioactive elements while laying electrical cables in one unit, said Fumio Matsuda, a spokesman for the Nuclear and Industry Safety.

The two were being treated at a hospital. They were exposed to radiation levels between 170 to 180 millisieverts, less than the maximum amount of 250 millisieverts that the government allows for workers at the plant, Matsuda said.

More than two dozen people have been injured trying to bring the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant under control.

The developments highlighted the challenges Japan faces after a magnitude-9 quake off Sendai triggered a massive tsunami. An estimated 18,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been left homeless as officials scramble to avert a major nuclear crisis.

Radiation has seeped into raw milk, seawater and 11 kinds of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower and turnips, grown in areas around the plant.

## Germany presses ahead with plan to abandon nuclear power

By Juergen Baetz

BERLIN (AP) — Germany is determined to take the lead in showing the world how abandoning nuclear energy can be done, betting billions on expanding the use of renewable energy to meet power demands instead.

It is a transition that was supposed to happen slowly over the next 25 years, but is now being accelerated in the wake of Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant disaster, which Chancellor Angela Merkel has called a "catastrophe of apocalyptic dimensions."

Berlin's decision to take seven of its 17 reactors offline for three months for new safety checks has provided a glimpse into how the world's fourth-largest economy might wean itself from getting nearly a quarter of its power from atomic energy to none.

And experts say Germany's phase-out provides a good map that countries such as the United States, which use a similar amount of nuclear power, could follow. The German model would not work, however, in countries like France, which relies on nuclear energy for more than 70 percent of its power and has no intention of shifting.

"If we had the winds of Texas or the sun of California, the task here would be even easier," said Felix Matthes of Germany's renowned Institute for Applied Ecology. "Given the great potential in the U.S., it would be feasible there in the

long run too, even though it would necessitate huge infrastructure investments.”

Nuclear power has been very unpopular in Germany ever since radioactivity from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster drifted across the country. A center-left government a decade ago penned a plan to abandon the technology for good by 2021, but Merkel’s government last year amended it to extend the plants’ lifetime by an average of 12 years. That plan was put on hold after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami compromised nuclear power plants in Japan, and is being re-evaluated as the safety of all of Germany’s nuclear reactors is being rechecked.

Germany currently gets 23 percent of its energy from nuclear power — about as much as the U.S. Its ambitious plan to shut down its reactors will require at least \$210 billion investment in alternative energy sources, which experts say will likely lead to higher electricity prices.

Germany now gets 17 percent of its electricity from renewable energies, 13 percent from natural gas and more than 40 percent from coal. The Environment Ministry says in 10 years renewable energy will contribute 40 percent of the country’s overall electricity production.

## Chu predicts clean energy to be cost competitive by end of decade

Energy Secretary Steven Chu predicts clean sources of energy such as wind and solar will be no more expensive than oil and gas projects by the end of the decade, AFP reports.

[Read more](#)

## EPA’s top air regulator faces GOP critics at Houston hearing

Gina McCarthy, the Environmental Protection Agency’s top air regulator, confront her GOP critics Thursday at a House Energy and Commerce Committee field hearing in Houston, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

## Japanese nuclear plan dismissed concerns about tsunami

A Japanese government agency that spent years evaluating the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant declared the facility safe after dismissing concerns from a

member of its own expert panel that a tsunami could jeopardize the reactors, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

### Pawlenty calls past cap-and-trade support stupid

GOP presidential contender Tim Pawlenty now describes his past support for cap-and-trade as “stupid,” The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

### Granholm: Pew campaign to focus on jobs, not climate change

Former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm says the clean energy campaign she will help lead for the Pew Charitable Trusts will focus on jobs and security, not climate change, the Detroit News reports.

[Read more](#)

### Houston firm helps oil slick cleanup, denies old well involved

A Houston company is helping the Coast Guard clean up oil that has reached the shores of Louisiana even though the company denies one of its old wells is responsible for the spill, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

### Lobbying intensifies as Maryland offshore wind vote nears

Lobbying inside Maryland’s legislature has intensified as a vote nears on Gov. Martin O’Malley’s plan to build one of the nation’s first offshore wind farms, but a powerful state senator is threatening to delay action in his chamber until next year, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Meanwhile, O'Malley proposed changes to his plan hoping to win more support.

[Read more](#)

## Europe worries Japan won't meet climate pledge after nuclear crisis

A top European Commission official is expressing worry that Japan may have difficulty delivering on a pledge to cut emissions by 25 percent by 2020 in the aftermath of its nuclear crisis, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

## Arctic ice ties winter record for smallest size

The U.S. government says Arctic sea ice, a benchmark for the earth's warming temperature, this month tied the smallest size on record for winter coverage on the northern ocean, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

## Conoco to shed billions in buyback effort

ConocoPhillips has unveiled plans to sell an additional \$5 billion to \$10 billion in assets over the next two years and use the proceeds to fund its buyback and capital-spending programs, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

## Japanese regulator says nuclear power's growth won't slow

A top Japanese regulator tells The Wall Street Journal the country's campaign to expand atomic power won't slow, despite the battle to contain the world's

worst nuclear crisis in 25 years, because the alternative is "blackouts."

[Read more](#)

## Nepal develops plan to end severe energy shortages

The government of Nepal has launched a \$275 million effort to build new power plants and provide industry incentives in hopes of ending the country's continuing energy shortages within five years, the BBC reports.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

- Mar. 24, Washington: CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley addresses impacts of Obama administration's clean energy and climate agenda along U.S.-Mexico border at the Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting. 9:30 am, Mandarin Oriental hotel.
- Mar. 24, Houston: The House Energy and Power Subcommittee holds a hearing on EPA greenhouse gas regulations impact on Texas. EPA Asst. Admin. McCarthy, Texas Attorney General Abbot to testify. 9:30 am, Garrett-Townes Auditorium, 1303 San Jacinto St.

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**From:** PETIT Evangelia <Evangelia.PETIT@asn.fr>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:17 AM  
**To:** wgpcnews@nea.fr  
**Subject:** [wgpcnews] RE: Webbcast on WENRAs press conference  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Thank you for the information

Best regards



Evangelia Petit  
Autorité de sûreté nucléaire (ASN)  
Chef du Bureau Information des Publics  
Responsable relations médias et affaires publiques / Press  
relation manager  
tél : 01 40 19 86 61  
mail : [evangelia.petit@asn.fr](mailto:evangelia.petit@asn.fr)

---

**De :** Risto.Isaksson@stuk.fi [mailto:Risto.Isaksson@stuk.fi]  
**Envoyé :** mercredi 23 mars 2011 17:28  
**À :** wgpcnews@oecd-nea.org  
**Objet :** [wgpcnews] Webbcast on WENRAs press conference

Dear friends,

WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators Association) had a two day meeting in Helsinki 22 and 23 of March. After the meeting a press conference was organized.

Attached is a link to the recorded webcast of the conference:

[http://qsb.webcast.fi/s/stuk/stuk\\_2011\\_0323\\_tiedotustilaisuus/](http://qsb.webcast.fi/s/stuk/stuk_2011_0323_tiedotustilaisuus/)

The first half of the one hour recording is in English. WENRA's chair, Director General of STUK, Mr. Jukka Laaksonen and Chairman of the French nuclear safety Authority (ASN) Mr. André-Claude LACOSTE speak about current issues like WENRA statement on the Fukushima npp accident and the first proposal about European "stress test" on nuclear power plants and answer journalists questions.

The language of the second half or the press conference is Finnish. If you wonder.

Best Regards

Risto Isaksson

BU/975

---

Risto Isaksson

Head of Public Communication

Tel. +358 9 759 88 208

Fax +358 9 3738

[risto.isaksson@stuk.fi](mailto:risto.isaksson@stuk.fi)

RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 14, FIN-00881 Helsinki, Finland

[www.stuk.fi](http://www.stuk.fi)

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:31 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Lovely...

Yup, didn't bother reading that either.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 24 06:19:31 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Lovely...

There-s one from matthew bunn in the post too.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 24 06:01:16 2011  
**Subject:** Lovely...

A von Hippel op-ed in the NYT. Wonder what he thinks?

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Hoc, PMT12  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:06 PM  
**To:** Leeds, Eric; Giitter, Joseph; McGinty, Tim; LIA07 Hoc  
**Cc:** Hoc, PMT12; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Draft INRev (3) PMT for your consideration and issuance....  
**Attachments:** DraftINRev1 (3) PMT.doc  
  
**Importance:** High

Eric-

(b)(5)

It's

our understanding that NRR will take the lead to get this issued, and approved by ET and/or Commission. We also understand that OPA would most likely need to issue a Press release if this is sent to NRC licensees. If NRR has a process that you envision for collection and working this with the NRR PMs and/or the PMT that would also be great.

When it gets issued, please cc the pmt12 account also-

Thanks  
Cyndi Jones  
PMT

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:56 PM  
**To:** 'Jan Strasma'  
**Subject:** RE: Paperwork

Thanks for being willing to sign up for another tour. Wish I had gotten things rolling Monday of last week. It was Wednesday before I could focus on staffing.

I will be very glad to have you back in the saddle again -- and I am sure Vika and Prema will as well. They will need lots of help as they go out for all these annual meetings.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jan Strasma [mailto:(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:52 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Paperwork

Eliot -

I just sent all the paperwork in by FedEx overnight. I'll do the fingerprints and drug test tomorrow at the Region III office. Then I'll just wait....

Jan

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:55 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Phone call from Trish regarding NY Times

not sure how they reached her. work, I suppose. She has my cell, so that's how she got in touch with me.

In a message dated 3/23/2011 7:53:21 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov) writes:

Thanks. Didn't know matt had her home fone.

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:53 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Phone call from Trish regarding NY Times

Trish called me at home just now to let me know that Matt Wald referred a NYTimes reporter to her after hours tonight for a story on ingestion pathways. She thinks it may run tomorrow and may or may not cite her by name. Anyway, I didn't want you to be surprised . . .

=

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**From:** ANS.HOC@nrc.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:20 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** ACTION: Commissioners Assistants Briefing Notification

There will be a Commissioners Assistants Briefing given by the NRC HQ at 2000 (8pm) EDT concerning the Reactor Events in Japan. Call (b)(6) approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled start time. When prompted, enter security code (b)(6). You may call 301-816-5164 at this time and follow the voice prompts if you do not wish to receive this notification from our Automatic Notification System.

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**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:04 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Heads up: Japan evacuations  
**Attachments:** Japan evacuation.doc

(b)(5)

Beth

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**From:** Leeds, Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Borchardt, Bill; Virgilio, Martin; Weber, Michael; Johnson, Michael; Holahan, Gary; Wiggins, Jim; Evans, Michele; Miller, Charles; Sheron, Brian; Uhle, Jennifer; Doane, Margaret; Mamish, Nader; Grobe, Jack; Boger, Bruce; Ruland, William; Dean, Bill; McCree, Victor; Pederson, Cynthia; Howell, Art; Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** Heads up: Japan evacuations

FYI - I asked our contact at the NEA for info on other countries evacuating around Fukushima. Some other members of the international community followed the US recommendation. Some did other things See below and attached.

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1270

---

**From:** Diane.JACKSON@oecd.org [mailto:Diane.JACKSON@oecd.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:22 PM  
**To:** Leeds, Eric  
**Subject:** Your question about Japan evacuations

Eric –

I did some web searching. Canada, South Korea, UK and Australia stated an evacuation distance of 80 km/ 50 miles.

Many countries, such as France, urged their citizens in the north-east Japan and Tokyo to evacuate. In most reports, most countries do not state the reason is nuclear and they do not give a defined distance.

Attached are excerpts from reports with web sources.

Hope that helps,  
Diane

**CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION (CNSC):** March 17, 2011 19:08 EDT:

"Given the evolving situation, Canadians located within 80 km of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant should consider, as a further precautionary measure, evacuating this area. The directions of the Japanese government and local emergency response personnel should also be followed by all Canadians in Japan."

**CANADA FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:** 23 March, 2011

"Following damage to the Fukushima nuclear power station in Okumacho, Canadians are strongly advised to follow the advice issued by the Japanese authorities. An evacuation order is in effect for the zone within 20 km of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Japanese authorities recommend that people between 20 km and 30 km from the plant remain indoors with windows and doors closed and refrain from using ventilation systems. Given the evolving situation, Canadians located within 80 km of the plant are advised that they should, as a further precautionary measure, evacuate this area. The directions of the Japanese government and local emergency response personnel should also be followed by all Canadians in Japan. "

**Kyodo News:** March 18, Kyodo

<http://english.kyodonews.jp/news/2011/03/79157.html>

"S. Korea to mobilize military planes to evacuate nationals from Japan"

On Thursday, South Korea upgraded a safety advisory telling its citizens in Japan to stay at least 80 kilometers away from the crippled nuclear reactors in Fukushima Prefecture, more than doubling the previous evacuation distance of 30 km amid rising fears of exposure to radiation.

**Australian Business Traveller:** 18 March 2011

<http://www.ausbt.com.au/australian-government-to-japan-travellers-leave-now-tokyo-unsafe>

ARPANSA [the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency] recommended that Australians within 80 kilometres of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant move out of the area as a precautionary measure.

**Travel Weekly:** Mar 17, 2011 07:43

"Nuclear fears in Japan prompt FCO warning"

<http://www.travelweekly.co.uk/Articles/2011/03/17/36516/nuclear-fears-in-japan-prompt-fco-warning.html>

The Government is chartering aircraft to evacuate Britons from Japan to Hong Kong as concerns heighten over fallout from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office updated its travel advice today, saying: "Due to the evolving situation at the Fukushima nuclear facility and potential disruptions to the supply of goods, transport, communications, power and other infrastructure, British nationals currently in Tokyo and to the north of Tokyo should consider leaving the area.

"The UK government is chartering flights from Tokyo to Hong Kong to supplement commercially available options for those wishing to leave Japan."

Britons were urged to remain outside an 80km radius of the nuclear plant "as an additional precautionary measure," saying the call was in line with the US government's advice to its citizens in Japan.

"If you are currently between 30km and 80km from the facility, we advise you to leave the area or take shelter indoors if you are unable to travel," the FCO said. Britons seeking to leave Japan were advised to use commercial flights as their first option or register interest in the charter option to Hong Kong.

#### **BBC report: 18 march 2011**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12775329>

#### **"Foreign evacuations"**

- US - providing flights for people who wish to leave, advising 50-mile exclusion zone around Fukushima
- France - urging people to leave northern Japan and Tokyo, sending government planes to fly French out
- UK - advising nationals to leave north-east and Tokyo, chartering flights out
- China - bringing thousands to Niigata for evacuation
- Australia - people with non-essential roles to leave Japan

China says it has evacuated more than 6,000 of its nationals from quake-hit areas, mostly to Niigata on Japan's west coast, and is laying on six to eight additional flights to bring them home.

South Korea has said it will mobilise military ships and aircraft to evacuate its citizens if the situation worsens. At the moment it has told its nationals to stay 50 miles away from the plant.

Most other countries have also advised their nationals to evacuate from the north-eastern region of Japan or to leave the country altogether if they can.

**Financial Times report Published: March 17 2011 17:14**

**"Foreign governments step up evacuations"**

**<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/592cdc28-50b1-11e0-9227-00144feab49a.html#axzz1HRMbjqdg>**

In the clearest sign yet that foreign governments are losing confidence in the Japanese government's ability to contain radioactivity from the crippled reactors, embassies including Australia, China, South Korea and Thailand upgraded their warnings to nationals in Japan.

The US and UK governments on Thursday said they were arranging charter flights for their nationals to leave Japan. The UK and Australia also expanded the evacuation zone to 80km in line with advice from the US to its nationals.

**World News Company report: March 17 2011**

**<http://www.worldnewsco.com/4528/residents-radius-80-km-fukushima-nuclear-power-plant/>**

The government of United States called on their citizens within a radius of 80 kilometers from the Fukushima nuclear power plant to leave the area. U.S. warning shows the evacuation radius which is wider than the evacuation order issued by Japanese government.

The Japanese government had previously urged people living within a radius of 20 kilometers from the Fukushima nuclear power plant to flee to other places.

The Japanese government also urged people residing within a radius of 32 kilometers from the Fukushima nuclear power plant to not leave the house if they can not leave the area.

While the British Foreign Office said, English people should now consider to go from Tokyo and the northeast region of Japan.

"Concerning the situation in the Fukushima nuclear facilities, the last suggestion of The UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) is for those who are outside the exclusion zone established by the Japanese authorities; no real problems to worry about the health of human society. This advice is kept under review constantly," the statement of British Foreign Office.

"However, due to the situation that developed at the Fukushima nuclear facilities and potential disruptions to supply of goods, transportation, communications, electricity and other infrastructure, British citizens who currently resides in Tokyo and the north of Tokyo to consider leaving the area," thus, the official statement of British Foreign Office as reported by the Daily Telegraph on Thursday (March 17, 2011).

The Swiss government also urged its citizens to leave Tokyo and northeastern Japan. Previously, the Australian government had also urged its citizens residing in Tokyo, near Fukushima nuclear power plant and other areas affected by earthquake and tsunami to go to

evacuate. The call of evacuation of residents also issued by the governments of South Korea and France.

**International Business Time: March 17, 2011 9:45 PM AEST**

**<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/123822/20110318/uk-japan.htm>**

As foreigners in Japan become increasingly desperate to flee the country, the British government has chartered planes to fly Britons in the country from Tokyo to Hong Kong.

"The UK government is chartering flights from Tokyo to Hong Kong to supplement commercially available options for those wishing to leave Japan," said a spokesman for the Foreign Office.

"Due to the evolving situation at the Fukushima nuclear facility and potential disruptions to the supply of goods, transport, communications, power and other infrastructure, British nationals in Tokyo and to the north of Tokyo should consider leaving the area," a UK government spokesman stated.

Britain follows other nations, including France, Turkey and China, which have already advised its nations to leave Japan

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**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:02 PM  
**To:** 'wgpcnews@nea.fr'  
**Cc:** 'janikowski@poczta.paa.gov.pl'  
**Subject:** [wgpcnews] RE: Webbcast on WENRAs press conference

Thanks! Hope to communicate with you in the not-too-distant-future on ideas for approaching our Social Media and Internet task.

**Beth Hayden**  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
— *Protecting People and the Environment*  
301-415-8202  
[elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Risto.Isaksson@stuk.fi [mailto:Risto.Isaksson@stuk.fi]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:28 PM  
**To:** wgpcnews@oecd-nea.org  
**Subject:** [wgpcnews] Webbcast on WENRAs press conference

Dear friends,

WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators Association) had a two day meeting in Helsinki 22 and 23 of March. After the meeting a press conference was organized.

Attached is a link to the recorded webcast of the conference:

[http://qsb.webcast.fi/s/stuk/stuk\\_2011\\_0323\\_tiedotustilaisuus/](http://qsb.webcast.fi/s/stuk/stuk_2011_0323_tiedotustilaisuus/)

The first half of the one hour recording is in English. WENRA's chair, Director General of STUK, Mr. Jukka Laaksonen and Chairman of the French nuclear safety Authority (ASN) Mr. André-Claude LACOSTE speak about current issues like WENRA statement on the Fukushima npp accident and the first proposal about European "stress test" on nuclear power plants and answer journalists questions.

The language of the second half or the press conference is Finnish. If you wonder.

Best Regards

Risto Isaksson

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Risto Isaksson

Head of Public Communication

BV/982

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Fax +358 9 3738

[risto.isaksson@stuk.fi](mailto:risto.isaksson@stuk.fi)

RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 14, FIN-00881 Helsinki, Finland

[www.stuk.fi](http://www.stuk.fi)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:46 PM  
**To:** 'mdaly@ap.org'  
**Subject:** Re: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Directs Staff on Continuing Agency Response to Japan Events; Adjusts Commission Schedule  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Roughly, yes.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Daly, Matthew <MDaly@ap.org>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 23 18:42:45 2011  
**Subject:** FW: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Directs Staff on Continuing Agency Response to Japan Events; Adjusts Commission Schedule

On timing, short-term review due in late June and longer review by end of year, right?

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**From:** opa administrators [mailto:opa@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:48 PM  
**To:** Daly, Matthew  
**Subject:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission Directs Staff on Continuing Agency Response to Japan Events; Adjusts Commission Schedule

■



# NRC NEWS

## U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: [opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov) Site: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. 11-051

March 18, 2011

### NRC INFORMS U.S. NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ON JAPAN EARTHQUAKE'S EFFECTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an Information Notice to all currently operating U.S. nuclear power plants, describing the effects of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami on Japanese nuclear power plants.

The notice provides a brief overview of how the earthquake and tsunami are understood to have disabled several key cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, and also hampered efforts to return those systems to service. The notice is based on the NRC's current understanding of the damage to the reactors and associated spent fuel pools as of Friday, March 18.

The notice reflects the current belief that the combined effects of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami exceeded the Fukushima Daiichi plant's design limits. The notice also recounts the NRC's efforts, post-9/11, to enhance U.S. plants' abilities to cope with severe events, such as the loss of large areas of a site, including safety systems and power supplies.

The NRC expects U.S. nuclear power plants will review the entire notice to determine how it applies to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.



# NRC NEWS

## U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: [opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov) Site: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. 11-055

March 23, 2011

### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION DIRECTS STAFF ON CONTINUING AGENCY RESPONSE TO JAPAN EVENTS; ADJUSTS COMMISSION SCHEDULE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has voted to launch a two-pronged review of U.S. nuclear power plant safety in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the resulting crisis at a Japanese nuclear power plant.

The Commission supported the establishment of an agency task force, made up of current senior managers and former NRC experts with relevant experience. The task force will conduct both short- and long-term analysis of the lessons that can be learned from the situation in Japan, and the results of their work will be made public.

"Our focus is always on ensuring the health and safety of the American people through our licensing and oversight of plants and radioactive materials in this country," Chairman Jaczko said. "Examining all the available information from Japan is essential to understanding the event's implications for the United States. We will perform a systematic and methodical review to see if there are changes that should be made to our programs and regulations to ensure protection of public health and safety."

The Commission set an aggressive schedule for the task force to provide formal updates on the short-term effort in 30, 60 and 90 days. NRC senior technical staff provided the Commission a 90-minute briefing on Monday, as a first step. The staff reiterated their conclusions that the United States and its territories will avoid any harmful radiation levels as a result of the ongoing events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant damaged by the quake and subsequent tsunami.

NRC inspectors who are posted at every U.S. nuclear power plant will also support the task force's short-term effort, supplemented as necessary by experts from the agency's regional and headquarters offices.

"This work will help determine if any additional NRC responses, such as Orders requiring immediate action by U.S. plants, are called for, prior to completing an in-depth investigation of the information from events in Japan," said NRC Executive Director for Operations Bill Borchardt.

The longer-term review will inform any permanent NRC regulation changes determined to be necessary. The Commission said it hopes the task force can begin the long-term evaluation in no later than 90 days, and added that the task force should provide a report with recommended actions within six months of the beginning of that effort.

The Commission also decided to revise its schedule for meetings and briefings to allow ample focus on the agency's response to events in Japan. Open Commission meetings on the status of the NRC response to the Japan earthquake are scheduled for April 14 and 28, a meeting on the staff's 30-day response is planned for May 3 and a meeting on the staff's 60-day response is planned for June 16. A revised Commission meeting schedule will be posted shortly on the NRC website.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:45 PM  
**To:** 'roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com'  
**Subject:** Re: Were there "vote sheets" on this vote ?

Generally in an area under "commission documents" under the news and information button. Not linked to release as matter of routine.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com <roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com <ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 23 18:39:35 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Were there "vote sheets" on this vote ?

Thanks. For my future reference, when they are made public, are they posted along with the release, or somewhere else on the site?  
Bests / Roberta

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:38 PM  
**To:** Rampton, Roberta (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** Re: Were there "vote sheets" on this vote ?

Vote sheets and comments are made public only at the direction of individual commissioners.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com <roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com <ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 23 18:20:23 2011  
**Subject:** Were there "vote sheets" on this vote ?

Hi Eliot – I'm probably not using the right terminology, but I'm just wondering whether there are written votes on the decision to do the new reviews that are publicly available? I did a quick check on the website but couldn't see. If there are written decisions, we'd love to see them – is there a link you can provide?  
Best thanks,

Roberta

---

**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

**Reuters**

Phone: 202 898 8376

Mobile: (b)(6)

[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

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**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:16 PM  
**To:** 'wgpcnews@oecd-nea.org'  
**Subject:** [wgpcnews] Latest USNRC Press Release on Japan Assessment

Dear all,

For your information, here is our press release announcing NRC's plans for reviewing the Japan event. <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-055.pdf>

Regards,  
**Beth Hayden**  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
— *Protecting People and the Environment*  
301-415-8202  
[elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov)

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:08 PM  
**To:** 'Mike.Emanuel@FOXNEWS.COM'  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** Re: today's action

Hi Mike;

We've got a press release up on our home page, and the relevant documents are on the "recent commission document" page -- can't get the link easily on BB, perhaps eliot or ivonne can forward that. Thanks.

Scott Burnell  
NRC Public Affairs

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:59 PM  
**To:** Grobe, Jack  
**Subject:** RE: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

Yeah, an idle mind is the devil's playground.

---

**From:** Grobe, Jack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:58 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

Looks like you are staying busy - a good thing!!  
Jack Grobe, Deputy Director, NRR

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 23 17:32:38 2011  
**Subject:** Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution~~  
~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: JAPAN STUFF – In very predictable fashion, calls are now beginning to turn to more intensive examination of a variety of NRC regulatory programs, positions outlined in speeches, etc. It is the beginning of the “what did you know, when did you know it, what didn’t you know and why didn’t you do anything about it” phase of a disaster. It will be accompanied by the introduction of legislation to mandate all sorts of things.

Meanwhile, the press release went out announcing the two-phase study of how lessons from the Japan reactor problem might influence regulation here in the United States.

CALIFORNIA PLANTS – AP (Los Angeles bureau) reporter is working on a long lead piece about the safety and design of Diablo Canyon and SONGS. We continue to work with him on a daily basis and provide updates on a number of topics to include seismic, past performance, TMI and the agency response and changes in procedures. Story expected in the coming days.

SEISMIC ISSUES – A NYTimes reporter is working on a seismic piece. We are trying to steer him as far as possible from the convoluted and occasionally wrong and misleading MSNBC.Com piece that ran. The primary reporter was referred internally to reporter Matt Wald who talked Monday with a senior RES official regarding seismic risk and the G1-199 report.

PRICE ANDERSON ACT – We spoke to the Daily Journal reporter again who plans to write for tomorrow. We coordinated with the program office on a number of specific questions related to past claims following TMI, decommissioning of plants and the impact on the amount of money available to the fund.

INDIAN POINT – Reps. Lowey and Engel, D-N.Y., issued a press release today calling for hearings on the licensing of nuclear facilities located within an evacuation area containing a high population. This prompted calls from the Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) and the Associated Press, and will likely generate other interest. Separately, a reporter for the Christian Science Monitor wanted the rundown on what happened with

our meeting yesterday with New York State officials on seismic concerns. At headquarters we spoke to the Financial Times and Epoch Times-NY explaining what the agency and NY had agreed to with regard to seismic data and inspections at the IP plant.

OYSTER CREEK – Radio station WOBN-FM (of Ocean County, N.J.) and the Berkeley (N.J.) Patch news web site sought our take on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals asking the agency for information on how the Japan reactor events might impact our relicensing of Oyster Creek.

LIMERICK – The Mercury (of Pottstown, Pa.) had questions on spent fuel storage at the Limerick plant in light of the Japanese reactor events. We provided background on earlier NRC evaluations of spent fuel storage and related information.

BRAIDWOOD – OPA expects a substantive turnout for this meeting – both in terms of the public and media – because of the Japan episode. Lots of local media tell us they will show up.

SENATORS DURBIN AND KIRK FORUM – AP, CBS and Bloomberg called about a public forum put together by Illinois senators Durbin and Kirk to discuss the safety of Illinois' nuclear power plants. NRC was asked to participate along with representatives from Exelon, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Argonne National Lab.

WET VS. SPENT FUEL STORAGE – Responded to questions from the Minneapolis Star Tribune about the safety of wet vs. dry spent nuclear storage. The reporter asked us to respond to issues raised in a 2003 report "Reducing the Hazards from Stored Spent Power-Reactor Fuel in the United States" which claims dry storage is inherently safer than wet storage and that spent fuel should be moved into dry storage after five years, among other things. The NRC responded to this study in 2003: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/reducing-hazards-spent-fuel.html>. Today, the agency's position remains that both methods of storing spent fuel are safe. But we will be looking at this issue in the course of our reviews associated with the Japan events.

Also, a reporter from the Connecticut Post has been working on a story about spent fuel storage for several months. He's finally putting the finishing touches on it and expects it to run this weekend. We've answered questions about why fuel is safe stored in pools, why we don't order plants to move the fuel to casks, etc.

MINNESOTA PLANTS – OPA responded to questions from Minnesota Daily about the safety status of Minnesota plants and the NRC's short and long-term reviews following events in Japan.

QUAKE MICHIGAN—OPA spoke to Michigan Public Radio about the NRC Information Notice to plants in response to the events in Japan. The reporter also had questions about INPO and their involvement with plants. OPA directed her to contact INPO to better understand their mission.

In non Japan OPA work ...

2: SAN ONOFRE – Pete Dietrich, the Chief Nuclear Officer at SONGS was asked by CBS Evening News to do an on-camera interview about the plant's safety. He said the reporter told him they have interviewed plant workers and wanted to get management's perspective on safety issues. Dietrich is debating whether to do the interview and called us as a courtesy.

3: DRESDEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL –CBS and Fox called to ask about an EP drill taking place today and tomorrow. They asked about NRC participation and we told them about an NRC inspector who will be evaluating the plant's ability to implement the emergency plan. FEMA will hold a meeting Friday to discuss their preliminary assessment. A Region 3 inspector will provide brief input from the NRC's perspective.

4: SONGS – We spoke at length with a reporter from San Clemente patch.com about San Onofre performance issues. We walked the reporter through an explanation of our Reactor Oversight Process and discussed our latest assessment of plant safety.

5: WOLF CREEK – We spoke to a reporter from The Wichita Eagle about our latest safety assessment for Wolf Creek.

6: HATCH – A small town talk radio station, WVOP-AM in Vidalia, Ga., which is near Plant Hatch, called Region II and recorded an interview on our inspection program there. The interviewer was decidedly pro-nuclear, touting the jobs and positive economic impact the plant has brought to the area. The interview is expected to be run on Thursday.

7: FITZPATRICK – The Syracuse (N.Y.) hit us with several additional questions regarding our Resident Inspectors at the site, as it wraps up work on a piece scheduled to run Sunday. Last month, the reporter spent a good part of a day at the plant, interviewing the inspectors and receiving a tour.

8: CALVERT CLIFFS – a reporter from Capital News Service interviewed a Region I branch chief and PAO on a number of recent inspection findings at Calvert Cliffs. Sounded like the reporter was getting lots of help from UCS

Press releases and speeches posted:

NRC to Discuss 2010 Performance of Farley Nuclear Power Plant

Commission votes on study of Japan quake issues

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**From:** Shapiro, Nicholas S. <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:36 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; changbe@state.gov; lars.anderson@usaid.gov; Hayden, Caitlin  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck; Hannah, Roger  
**Subject:** RE: NRC interviews in tokyo

Adding hayden as well

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:35 PM  
**To:** changbe@state.gov; lars.anderson@usaid.gov  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck; Hannah, Roger; Shapiro, Nicholas S.  
**Subject:** NRC interviews in tokyo

Gents: Good morning/evening -- If the Japanese government starts thanking the U.S. publicly and references the NRC, I would appreciate some help setting up and managing press for our senior guy in Tokyo, Chuck Casto (b)(6). Our independent agency has been point on technical matters and involved in the design of some custom-built pumping equipment headed for the plant site.

Chuck is willing to do press. Our chairman is fine with us doing it, and told me USAID was asking him Tuesday about our availability during the deputies call. He reiterated both points to me today. We are ready to go if the Japanese start talking about us, if we can get some logistical help. (Nick – the chairman asked me to keep you in the loop.)

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:09 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** tnt

Today on Japan:

NYT  
Reuters  
ProPublica  
Discover magazine

On National Materials Events Database:  
Frederick News-Post

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
*Protecting People & the Environment*

Bu/989

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:58 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly  
**Cc:** Chandrathil, Prema  
**Subject:** Region 3 TNT

BRAIDWOOD – OPA received questions about being present at Thursday's Braidwood Community Information Night, a periodic meeting held by Exelon the NRC has supported since the discovery of tritium leaks in 2005. We spoke to AP, CBS, Morris Daily Herald and NPR Chicago. We heard from the plant they are also expecting Fox and a local Chicago station WLS-TV.

SENATORS DURBIN AND KIRK FORUM – AP, CBS and Bloomberg called about a public forum put together by Illinois senators Durbin and Kirk to discuss the safety of Illinois' nuclear power plants. NRC was asked to participate along with representatives from Exelon, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Argonne National Lab.

WET VS. SPENT FUEL STORAGE – Responded to questions from the Minneapolis Star Tribune about the safety of wet vs. dry spent nuclear storage. The reporter asked us to respond to issues raised in a 2003 report "Reducing the Hazards from Stored Spent Power-Reactor Fuel in the United States" which claims dry storage is inherently safer than wet storage and that spent fuel should be moved into dry storage after five years, among other things. The NRC responded to this study in 2003: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/reducing-hazards-spent-fuel.html> . Today, the agency's position remains that both methods of storing spent fuel are safe. But we will be looking at this issue in the course of our reviews associated with the Japan events.

MINNESOTA PLANTS – OPA responded to questions from Minnesota Daily about the safety status of Minnesota plants and the NRC's short and long-term reviews following events in Japan.

DRESDEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL –CBS and Fox called to ask about an EP drill taking place today and tomorrow. They asked about NRC participation and we told them about an NRC inspector who will be evaluating the plant's ability to implement the emergency plan. FEMA will hold a meeting Friday to discuss their preliminary assessment. A Region 3 inspector will provide brief input from the NRC's perspective.

OUAKE MICHIGAN—OPA spoke to Michigan Public Radio about the NRC Information Notice to plants in response to the events in Japan. The reporter also had questions about INPO and their involvement with plants. OPA directed her to contact INPO to better understand their mission.

Viktoria Mitlyng  
Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
Lisle, IL 60532  
Tel 630/829-9662  
Fax 630/515-1026  
e-mail: [viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov](mailto:viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:35 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Ok, thanks....

---

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

Thomson Reuters

Phone: 1-202-310-5683

Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:34 PM  
**To:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

I'm beginning to smell white smoke. Watch your inbox over the next hour or so.

eliot

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Hey Eliot,

Just checking in, are we going to get the vote results today?

Ayesha

---

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

Thomson Reuters

Phone: 1-202-310-5683

Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:17 PM  
**To:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** Re: Any news on the vote

BU/991

No movement tonight. I can give you a lid for the night.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com <ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 18:00:21 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Hi Eliot,

I know the commission moves in mysterious ways, but are we expecting them to move tonight? Is there a reason for the amount of time its taking to vote?

Thanks,  
Ayesha

---

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

**Thomson Reuters**

Phone: 1-202-310-5683  
Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:00 PM  
**To:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Hope to have it today. The commission moves in mysterious ways.

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:54 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Are you guys expecting the results of that vote today?

---

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

**Thomson Reuters**

Phone: 1-202-310-5683  
Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 5:04 PM  
**To:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** Re: Any news on the vote

I hhave no idea. Notice we said we hoped it would come out today but did not promise.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com <ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 16:58:09 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Any news on the vote

Ok thanks. For planning purposes, when is the latest you think you would get the vote?

---

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

Thomson Reuters

Phone: 1-202-310-5683  
Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 4:57 PM  
**To:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** Re: Any news on the vote

Hoping, but all votes not in. Sometimes member write comments with their votes.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com <ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 16:50:54 2011  
**Subject:** Any news on the vote

Hey Eliot,

Is the chairman still hoping to get vote on 90-day report completed today?

Ayesha

**Ayesha Rascoe**  
Energy Reporter

**Thomson Reuters**

Phone: 1-202-310-5683

Mobile: (b)(6)

ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
thomsonreuters.com

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**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** TNT items

INDIAN POINT – Congresspersons Lowey and Engel, D-N.Y., issued a press release today calling for hearings on the licensing of nuclear facilities located within an evacuation area containing a high population. This prompted calls from the Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) and the Associated Press, and will likely generate other interest. Separately, a reporter for the Christian Science Monitor wanted the rundown on what happened with our meeting yesterday with New York State officials on seismic concerns.

OYSTER CREEK – Radio station WOBN-FM (of Ocean County, N.J.) and the Berkeley (N.J.) Patch news web site sought our take on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals asking the agency for information on how the Japan reactor events might impact our relicensing of Oyster Creek.

FITZPATRICK – The Syracuse (N.Y.) hit us with several additional questions regarding our Resident Inspectors at the site, as it wraps up work on a piece scheduled to run Sunday. Last month, the reporter spent a good part of a day at the plant, interviewing the inspectors and receiving a tour.

LIMERICK – The Mercury (of Pottstown, Pa.) had questions on spent fuel storage at the Limerick plant in light of the Japanese reactor events. We provided background on earlier NRC evaluations of spent fuel storage and related information.

---

**From:** Tom Zeller Jr. <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:13 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Cc:** Couret, Ivonne; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: nyt query re: quake analysis

Brilliant. Yes, Matt and I working together, along with Broder, although as you might imagine, we're all shooting in different directions. Thanks a bunch for the quick response. Saves me heaps of time. Heading to your links now....

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Zeller Jr.  
Energy & Environment  
The New York Times  
[tom@nytimes.com](mailto:tom@nytimes.com)  
1-212-556-1880 (NYC)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
1-208-460-4394 (efax)

On Wed, Mar 23, 2011 at 4:11 PM, McIntyre, David <[David.McIntyre@nrc.gov](mailto:David.McIntyre@nrc.gov)> wrote:

> Hi Tom –

>

> We quibble with the entire concept of the MSNBC.com piece. NRC does  
> not rank plants this way. The numbers are site- and plant-specific and  
> not intended as comparisons or rankings. We've posted several  
> responses to the MSNBC.com piece on our website and the nifty new NRC  
> blog, I'll try to link or excerpt some of them.

>

>

>

> Is Matt Wald working with you on this piece? My boss, Eliot Brenner,  
> mentioned that Matt had discussed this issue at length with one of our  
> seismic experts on Monday. He should be familiar with our  
> interpretation of the data.

>

>

>

> Here's Eliot's response to the MSNBC.com article:

> [http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov/2011/03/18/dont-believe-everything-](http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov/2011/03/18/dont-believe-everything-you-read/)  
> you-read/

>

> And here's an FAQ we posted on seismic issues:

> <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/faqs-related-to-japan.pdf>

>

>

>

BU/993

>  
>  
> David McIntyre  
>  
> Office of Public Affairs  
>  
> U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
>  
> (301) 415-8200  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Tom Zeller Jr. [mailto:(b)(6)]  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:51 PM  
> To: Couret, Ivonne; McIntyre, David  
> Subject: nyt query re: quake analysis  
>  
>  
>  
> Hey David - I'm sure you've seen this, but we're trying to verify  
> numbers that MSNBC ran few days ago -- basically a ranking of core  
> damage frequency attributable to seismic activity at each of the 104  
> reactors in U.S., based on new NRC analysis. That analysis, dated Aug.  
>  
> 2010, and the MSNBC spreadsheet are attached. Is there anything to  
> quibble with here, or is this accurate?  
>  
>  
>  
> It's also all laid out at MSNBC here:  
>  
> [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42103936/ns/world\\_news-asia-pacific/#](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42103936/ns/world_news-asia-pacific/#)  
>  
>  
>  
> Appreciate your help. -TZ  
>  
>  
>  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Tom Zeller Jr.  
>  
> Energy & Environment  
>  
> The New York Times  
>

> tom@nytimes.com

>

> 1-212-556-1880 (NYC)

>

> (b)(6) (mobile)

>

> 1-208-460-4394 (efax)

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:22 PM  
**To:** Eli Kintisch  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Mag story on US SNF pools

Hi Eli;

The quick answer is that the Commissioners never had any formal proposals to act on regarding this issue.

Scott

---

**From:** Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaas.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:12 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: Mag story on US SNF pools

Scott: a quick one. IN 2008 Jaczko said:

Therefore, in an effort to be ever vigilant about the safety of spent fuel, I believe the NRC should develop new regulations which require spent fuel be moved to dry cask storage after it has been allowed to cool for five years. This step, recognizing the inherent safety benefits of dry storage and combining that knowledge with the new ISFSI security regulations under development, will provide a safer and more secure disposition for spent fuel in the short term.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/speeches/2008/s-08-023.html>

What has the NRC done to develop new regulations on this in the ~3 years since Jaczko said this?

Thanks, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

>>> "Burnell, Scott" <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> 3/23/2011 10:49 AM >>>

Hi Eli;

I'm not sure stopping by in person would be worthwhile – for now, running questions through either my colleague David or me is the quickest path. I still don't know that we can shake any staff loose for an interview anytime soon. Let's start with your Qs and see what we can do. Thanks.

Scott

BU/994

---

**From:** Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaas.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:45 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Mag story on US SNF pools

Scott:

Reporting for a big magazine story, due monday, on risks to US facilities on these pools. (The story is competing with others; if it doesn't happen my reporting will appear on the ScienceInsider blog) May I come to NRC tomorrow or Friday to interview some NRC staff for this story?

Thanks, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter  
Science Magazine  
202 326 6446

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:12 PM  
**To:** Power, Stephen  
**Subject:** RE: 90-day review

With kind regards ...I should have the release out the door within about an hour.

---

**From:** Power, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:07 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** 90-day review

What's the hold-up over?

With kind regards,

Stephen Power  
Staff Reporter  
The Wall Street Journal  
Office: (202) 862-9269  
Cell: (b)(6)  
Email: [Stephen.Power@wsj.com](mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com)  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenlpower>

BU/995

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:57 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: what I need to run by you

I know. I am hoping to have time to work with her and Cindy on some Q&As before leaving for Braidwood.

Had to completely rework Cindy's written testimony yesterday. (b)(5) Working on oral remarks today.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:54 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: what I need to run by you

Becky Schmidt will be up there with Cindy as well.

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:53 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: what I need to run by you

OK. Got it. We are good. Hope you are hanging in there. Vika

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:52 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: what I need to run by you

RE 1: Yes, you and Prema can go on camera. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:38 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** what I need to run by you

- I. Braidwood Communiyt Information Nihgt Thursday evening - We are expecting CBS, Fox News, Chicago Tribune, a local paper and some radio station to cover the meeting. The antis and people living around the plant are expected to turn out in force. Could be up to 200 people. Even though it's

a licensee meeting, we have supported it since 2005 to provide a regulatory perspective to the concerned community. Not going isn't an option. My question is about your guidance on television interviews. Can Prema and I go on camera? How about technical staff? I hope you say – no way.

- II. Durbin-Kirk forum Friday – I assume you are not coming. If you aren't, I would like to get your guidance on handling the media. Reporters will want to talk to Cindy. We expect TV. Does she decline to speak on camera if it's stuck in her face? I assume I can also talk to reporters if necessary.

Viktoria Mitlyng  
Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
Lisle, IL 60532  
Tel 630/829-9662  
Fax 630/515-1026  
e-mail: [viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov](mailto:viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:11 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Star Tribune

245pm  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 23 14:06:56 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response to Star Tribune

Thank you.

I need to talk to you about a couple of other, unrelated things. When do you have time?

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:05 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response to Star Tribune

Vika: tell the guy that we consider both options safe ... as opposed to equally safe.

As for the chairman, that was and is his position, and the issue will be examined by the full commission as part of these staff short and long-term review of the Japan events.

The reporter asked what has been done to develop regulations. In 2008 The chairman was expressing a thought that the agency should explore the issue further. There was no proposal given to the commission to vote upon.

Eliot

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:14 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Draft response to Star Tribune

(b)(5)

**I still need assistance with responding to the question about Chairman's statements regarding moving spent fuel to ISFSI after five years.**

I need to get back to the reporter in the next hour or two at the maximum.

Viktoria Mitlyng  
Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
Lisle, IL 60532  
Tel 630/829-9662  
Fax 630/515-1026  
e-mail: [viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov](mailto:viktoria.mitlyng@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:03 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

In my email.

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:03 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

Dave, can you send me a link to the response we posted? Thanks.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:34 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

Is this "2003 article" the Alvarez hooah? We posted a response to that which is still on our website. You might point him to that. Nothing has intervened (at least as of March 10, 2011) to change our minds.

Don't know why that particular light bulb didn't blink on before in this conversation ...

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:16 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** FW: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

Below is my draft response to the specific questions I just got from Star Tribune. Please review.  
Vika

David,

Below are responses to your questions:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Here is a link to a document that outlines the NRC's short-term and long-term reviews in the context of events at the Japanese reactors:

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1108/ML110800456.pdf>

---

**From:** Shaffer, David [mailto:David.Shaffer@startribune.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:55 AM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

Hi. Thanks.

Just to summarize, I am primarily interested in the NRC response to these points.

- > Zirconium fire risk raised in 2003 article
- > 5-year pool to cask recommendation
- > don't allow rerack, bring pools back to original design.
- > NRC action if any after 2006 NAS followup report on points raised in the 2003 article.

I also want to know what became of the NRC chairman's suggestion to go to 5-year pool to casks in his 2008 speech, which I also sent you.

And do you have the speech, press release or statement that said NRC will do a 90-day lessons learned from Japan, and then followup with a more detailed report? If so please tell me where it is. I can't find it on the NRC website.

Dave

---

**From:** Mitlyng, Viktoria [mailto:Viktoria.Mitlyng@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:37 AM  
**To:** Shaffer, David  
**Subject:** RE: Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

David,

Just touching base to let you know I am still working on your questions and will get back to you as soon as I can today.

Vika

---

**From:** Shaffer, David [mailto:David.Shaffer@startribune.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:13 PM  
**To:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** Paper from 2003 calling for NRC to stop allowing reracking, calling for 5 years from pool to cask

Victoria,

Here is the 2003 paper. The authors said NRC never formally responded.

David Shaffer  
Reporter/Editor, Business news  
Minneapolis Star Tribune  
612-673-7090 (desk) (b)(6) (cell)

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:00 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** No double counting of people in EPZs

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:29 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** RE: Trish says number is accurate

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:27 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Trish says number is accurate

Bu/1000

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:56 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Uselding, Lara  
**Subject:** Populations in EPZs around NPPs (if useful)  
**Attachments:** EPZ Population 07212004.xls

Nuclear Plant Site	Total Population w/in 10 Miles	Total Population w/in 20 Miles	Total Population w/in 50 Miles	STATE
Arkansas Nuclear	80519	138874	367242	AR
Beaver Valley	122728	679716	5549602	PA
Braidwood	57956	226256	6046594	IL
Browns Ferry	56214	370260	1412565	AL
Brunswick	38300	248332	642588	NC
Byron	41906	312272	1516732	IL
Callaway	7406	33388	356065	MO
Calvert Cliffs	69278	250174	3112254	MD
Catawba	240106	1158428	3691618	SC
Clinton	9077	44384	578969	IL
Columbia Generating Stat.	5649	10644	269807	WA
Comanche Peak	18996	101988	1954836	TX
Cooper	3653	15678	119930	NE
Crystal River	17863	78522	732600	FL
D.C. Cook	86136	269450	1750516	MI
Davis-Besse	10905	67740	1478114	OH
Diablo Canyon	61082	288602	841788	CA
Dresden	82958	546724	8799220	IL
Duane Arnold	83407	202450	504169	IA
Farley	14904	116678	683344	AL
Fermi	62413	353837	4683545	MI
Fitzpatrick	56074	100097	757173	NY
Fort Calhoun	14314	317142	817945	NE
Fort St. Vrain	24949	181967	2527075	CO
Ginna	40399	283631	1032615	NY
Grand Gulf	8633	27289	230135	MS
Harris	34269	326438	1850791	NC
Hatch	16272	98260	579434	GA
Hope Creek	45676	148219	4912642	NJ
Indian Point	414174	1890800	30552994	NY
Kewaunee	2378	38131	446016	WI
LaSalle County	22330	166600	1880046	IL
Limerick	278048	1186274	12144040	PA
McGuire	193716	1196038	4121840	NC
Millstone	206334	488066	3205206	CT

Monticello	37114	128789	1841198	MN
Nine Mile Point	56074	100097	757173	NY
North Anna	27944	153672	2621834	VA
Oconee	157800	464445	3174858	SC
Oyster Creek	112529	408268	2509452	NJ
Palisades	21260	68656	931620	MI
Palo Verde	6351	51714	2329275	AZ
Peach Bottom	66956	665376	7740274	PA
Perry	61940	202904	1831774	OH
Pilgrim	53216	208369	3146963	MA
Point Beach	32632	124824	916590	WI
Prairie Island	38720	171058	3320288	MN
Quad Cities	39784	333402	1107570	IL
River Bend	17187	101040	744871	LA

Nuclear Plant Site	Total Population w/in 10 Miles	Total Population w/in 20 Miles	Total Population w/in 50 Miles	STATE
Robinson	27658	68841	620776	SC
Salem	45676	148219	4912642	NJ
San Onofre	263883	1569927	18418041	CA
Seabrook	96032	314857	3612572	NH
Sequoyah	140200	736612	1766446	TN
South Texas	6604	67940	457006	TX
St. Lucie	290542	616654	1934786	FL
Summer	7282	105596	886217	SC
Surry	132574	609582	3313654	VA
Susquehanna	74682	429216	2222868	PA
Three Mile Island	162230	668263	1930904	PA
Turkey Point	161476	1144782	6161188	FL
Vermont Yankee	28486	111166	1001866	VT
Vogtle	8680	84112	1225912	GA
Waterford	74512	306948	1737556	LA
Watts Bar	12407	70597	653070	TN
Wolf Creek	4666	11479	145198	KS
<b>Total</b>	<b>4704767</b>	<b>21914316</b>	<b>184299208</b>	

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:20 PM  
**To:** Brenda Akstulewicz; Chandrathil, Prema; David McIntyre; Diane Screnci; Holly Harrington; Ivonne Couret; Janbergs, Holly; Ledford, Joey; Neil Sheehan; Roger Hannah; Scott Burnell; Uselding, Lara; Valerie Shannon; Victor Dricks; Viktoria Mitlyng  
**Subject:** FW: COMMISSION E-READER....WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011  
**Attachments:** Tab A 03-15-11 Blumenthal.pdf; Tab B 03-11-11 Obama 11-0141.pdf; Tab C 03-11-11 Bady 11-0140.pdf

---

**From:** Champ, Billie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:47 AM  
**To:** Commission E-Reader Distribution; E-Reader Distribution  
**Subject:** COMMISSION E-READER....WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

~~INTERNAL USE ONLY~~  
Some of the information contained in the  
Reader is not publicly available.  
If there are any questions, please contact SECY.

READING FILE

INDEX

March 23, 2011

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

- Tab "A" 03/15/11 -- Letter from Senator Richard Blumenthal, requests information regarding the NRC's oversight of nuclear power plants in the U.S.
- Tab "B" 03/11/11 -- Memorandum from President Barack Obama, Government Reform for Competitiveness and Innovation.
- Tab "C" 03/11/11 -- Memorandum from Robert Bady, Safe & Green Campaign, concerns letters from Town Selectboards regarding closure and decommissioning of Vermont Yankee nuclear power station.

Bu/1002

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
CONNECTICUT

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I am writing to request information regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) oversight of nuclear power plants in the United States.

The ongoing crisis at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has raised concerns – expressed to me by Connecticut residents – about whether a similar problem could occur in the United States. Like all Americans, I express my condolences and support for the Japanese victims and their families. This tragic occurrence raises difficult questions and concerns that should be addressed as soon as possible.

I would appreciate your responses to the following questions, which I believe will help Members of Congress and the public have a better understanding of the current environment in which these plants are operating:

- What insights has the NRC gained and what lessons have been learned from the tragic experience in Japan that can be applied to the safe operation of American nuclear plants?
- The German government recently announced that it would temporarily suspend operations at nuclear plants constructed before 1980, pending a safety review. Has the NRC contemplated steps along the same lines for any American nuclear plants?
- Do American nuclear facilities utilize any particular design characteristics or operational methods that make a Fukushima Daiichi-like crisis less likely to occur?
- What design or construction features, or practices and policies in connection with crisis response, could be implemented to better protect health and safety in the event of a similar emergency occurring here?

I will supplement these questions with others as more becomes known about the unfolding events in Japan.

While nuclear power has an important role in America's energy resource mix, we must ensure the safety and security of all our nuclear power facilities, especially for people who work and live in surrounding areas.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your continuing work to ensure that America's nuclear industry operates in a safe and reliable manner.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:07 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Robert  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Bowman, Eric; Jones, Steve; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** OPA Request on SFPs

Bob – One thing we're getting inundated with is questions regarding the 2004 report by the National Academies on Safety of Spent Fuel Storage, specifically their recommendation that we require plants to move SNF to cask after 5 years in pool. They want to know what changes we have directed, implemented, etc. in response to that report. Also, they are pointing out that in 2008 then Commissioner Jaczko publicly advocated regulations requiring transfer to cask after 5 yrs in pool. Has there been any movement on this?

I'm aware that at the time, Chm Diaz wrote to Sen Domenici with some detailed responses, including our position that SNF is safe in pool or cask, so we saw no reason to require early transfer; also that this position has not changed. On Sunday, Eric Bowman helped me reply to a couple questions from AP regarding some other NAS recommendations, specifically the arrangement of assemblies in the pools and one other that escapes me at the moment.

Would it be possible for your new Communications Rapid Response Team to draw up some quick talking points we could use on the current status of these issues? Relying on Diaz' letter is tenuous since it's six years old. His letter is online here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/congress-docs/correspondence/2005/domenici-03142005.pdf>

Thanks,  
Dave

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
*Protecting People & the Environment*

---

**From:** Gibbons, William <William.Gibbons@nnsa.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:06 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; 'jddanne@sandia.gov'  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: NRC , Sandia media inquiries

Great

Thank you, gentleman

Bill Gibbons  
U.S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Public Affairs Coordinator - Field Liaison  
(Office) 202.586.1760  
(Blackberry) (b)(6)  
(Personal) (b)(6)

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---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:04 PM  
**To:** Gibbons, William; 'jddanne@sandia.gov'  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: NRC , Sandia media inquiries

Glad to help out.

Scott Burnell is the public affairs officer in my shop who deals with reactor issues. It was he who was on the call with us. 301-41508204 is his direct number

eliot

---

**From:** Gibbons, William [mailto:William.Gibbons@nnsa.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:02 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; 'jddanne@sandia.gov'  
**Subject:** NRC , Sandia media inquiries

Eliot,

Thanks again for speaking with us yesterday and helping with the AP call. I know you all are extremely busy like us, and we really appreciate the assistance.

For your information, I'm copying Jim Danneskiold - he is the director of Sandia's media affairs and our point of contact at the Labs.

Eliot, one follow up question - I am blanking on the name of the technical guy you had on our call. Sandia's subject matter experts were curious

Thanks again for everything. Very much appreciated.

Cheers,

Bill

Bill Gibbons  
U.S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Public Affairs Coordinator - Field Liaison  
(Office) 202.586.1760  
(Blackberry) (b)(6)  
(Personal) (b)(6)

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---

**From:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:45 AM  
**To:** Mari.Saito@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** NRC REPLY - Media - Reuters TV Interview Request- Mr. Borchardt

The NRC is unable to accommodate interview requests at this time; I continue to maintain your request on our list for future opportunities.

Please monitor the NRC home page or sign up for the listserv for any press releases. News releases are available through a free subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.

Ivonne L. Couret  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Public Affairs  
Media Desk  
[opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov)  
301-415-8200

Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

---

**From:** Mari.Saito@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:Mari.Saito@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** OPA Resource  
**Subject:** Reuters TV Interview Request- Mr. Borchardt

Hello,

Reuters TV would like to request a live TV interview with Mr. Borchardt on the Japanese nuclear disaster. Reuters TV is very interested in interviewing Mr. Borchardt about the ongoing efforts to control the plants in Fukushima, Japan. We are especially interested in the reports of higher radiation at reactor 2 in Fukushima and the impact on water and food in Japan.

Second part of the interview will concentrate on nuclear power plants in the U.S., and how the events in Japan will impact regulation of the nuclear industry.

The interview will be live in our studio at 1333 H. Street, NW. Our Reuters anchor in New York will conduct the interview remotely, and the interview will be 10-15 minutes long. The interview will be shared with our Reuters text correspondents, Reuters.com, and Reuters Insider.

Thank you so much, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Mari Saito  
Production Assistant

BU/1005

Reuters Insider

**Thomson Reuters**

Phone: 1-202-354-5858

Mobile: (b)(6)

[mari.saito@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:mari.saito@thomsonreuters.com)

[thomsonreuters.com](http://thomsonreuters.com)

This email was sent to you by Thomson Reuters, the global news and information company. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifically states them to be the views of Thomson Reuters.

---

**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:35 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Follow-up message from Glanz at the NY Times

Neil,

Just confirming that you received these questions. Any idea on ETA?

Jim

Bu/1006

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Uselding, Lara  
**Cc:** Deavers, Ron; Bonaccorso, Amy  
**Subject:** If you get questions related to new warnings about Japan water safety

Refer members of the public to [radiation.questions@epa.gov](mailto:radiation.questions@epa.gov)

And media to: [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov) or 202-564-6794

BU/1007

---

**Subject:** Discussion with ODs & RAs (VTC to Regions)  
**Location:** ACRS Hearing Room (T-2B3) (Bridgeline 888-455-3052, pass code (b)(6))  
**Start:** Wed 3/23/2011 12:30 PM  
**End:** Wed 3/23/2011 1:30 PM  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Accepted  
**Organizer:** Borchardt, Bill  
**Required Attendees:** Weber, Michael; Ash, Darren; Muessle, Mary; Virgilio, Martin; Greene, Kathryn; Stewart, Sharon; Howard, Patrick; Miller, Charles; Cohen, Miriam; Haney, Catherine; Johnson, Michael; Leeds, Eric; Wiggins, Jim; Zimmerman, Roy; McCrary, Cheryl; Boyce, Thomas (OIS); Sheron, Brian; Kelley, Corenthis; Dean, Bill; McCree, Victor; Satorius, Mark; Collins, Elmo; Burns, Stephen; Vietti-Cook, Annette; Brenner, Eliot; Schmidt, Rebecca; Poole, Brooke; Doane, Margaret; Dyer, Jim; Hackett, Edwin; Landau, Mindy; Bell, Hubert; Hawkens, Roy; Ellmers, Glenn  
**Optional Attendees:** Gusack, Barbara; Ordaz, Vonna; Moore, Scott; R4\_Calendar Resource; Howell, Art; R4Meeting Resource; Munroe, Stacey; Williams, Paul; Pruett, Troy; Howell, Linda; Hay, Michael; Wright, Darlene; Lewis, Antoinette; Bates, Andrew; Joosten, Sandy; Baval, Rochelle; Shea, Pamela; Evans, Michele

**When:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:30 PM-1:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** ACRS Hearing Room (T-2B3) (Bridgeline 888-455-3052, pass code (b)(6))

**Note:** The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

This is an opportunity for Bill to hear from offices on how event response is impacting office work. Our expectation is that routine work is going as planned, we would like to know if there are significant changes to that assumption.

For those offices that do not report to the EDO, meeting attendance is at your discretion.

A bridgeline has been setup for your convenience as well, 888-455-3052, pass code (b)(6).

Bu/1008

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:42 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** RE:

Come see me for a minute please.

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW:

Your request for info got a big garbled, apparently, and Scott came up here looking for the source of the request. Apparently they later figured out it was you.

I can ask Roger to be the point person on this so you don't have to ride herd on it . . . Do you want to give any more guidance to them to make sure they get you what you've asked for?

Holly

---

**From:** Sloan, Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:12 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Cc:** LIA06 Hoc  
**Subject:** FW:

Holly,

I just received the information below. I intend to route this through the liaison team, reactor safety team, and our team in Japan before submitting to OPA.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

**Scott Sloan**

Project Manager  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Research & Test Reactor Projects Branch  
(301) 415-1619

---

**From:** LIA06 Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:07 AM  
**To:** Sloan, Scott  
**Subject:**

BU/1009

Scott... more information about the use of the description ... I have an e-mail trail that I'll summarize since I have a hard copy only... So the e-mails indicate that Elliot Brenner (OPA) will use it to brief Chuck Casto to do discuss with the

media. The thought is that the description that you are working on discuss how this concept was developed and how Bechtel ended up designing and constructing and then how it got to Japan..

This is a little different from what I had heard earlier but is in e-mails form Eliot..

Hope this helps. Mike

Liaison Team Director  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Operations Center

---

**Subject:** Senate Approp. Hearing  
**Location:** Senate Appropriations 10am 138 Dirksen Senate Office Bulding  
  
**Start:** Wed 3/30/2011 10:00 AM  
**End:** Wed 3/30/2011 1:30 PM  
  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
  
**Organizer:** OPA Resource

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:09 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.gif; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

---

**From:** Bill Dedman [mailto:Bill.Dedman@msnbc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:02 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

On what basis were these 27 chosen?

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:00 AM  
**To:** Bill Dedman  
**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Want to be sure I am clear. Letters will go out to all 104 plants and they will do additional analysis. We will then focus out attention, etc etc and so forth.

---

**From:** Bill Dedman [mailto:Bill.Dedman@msnbc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Thanks.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:58 AM  
**To:** Bill Dedman  
**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Bill, this refers to the letters that we will send in the future to all plants who will need to do an updated analysis. We will devote our attention initially to 27 which scened in during the GI-199 examination of seismic data. Those plants are:

The units to receive a seismic review next year, the NRC said, are Indian Point-2 and -3; Limerick-1 and -2; Peach Bottom-2 and -3; Seabrook; Crystal River-3; Farley-1 and -2; North Anna-1 and -2; Oconee-1,-2, and -3; St. Lucie-1 and -2; Sequoyah-1 and -2; Summer; Watts Bar 1; Dresden-2 and -3; Duane Arnold; Perry-1; River Bend; and Wolf Creek.

---

**From:** Bill Dedman [mailto:Bill.Dedman@msnbc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:48 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot

Bu/1011

**Cc:** OPA Resource

**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Eliot,

I see references in the press to the NRC requesting or collecting additional seismic information from 27 commercial nuclear plants (or is it nuclear reactors?).

Has this been done? If so, could you send a copy of that letter?

And which 27? Who has that list? Please send the list.

Regards,

Bill

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:59 AM

**To:** Bill Dedman

**Subject:** Re: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation.

Thanks for the dotcom distinction.

We've been busy and shortstaffed. Can't always peel folks away for substantive amounts of time for a single media outlet.

Thanks for the adjustments you made. I stand corrected, first reference on safety was 14 or 15. As a wire guy I would put it in 2nd or 3rd graf. That's just me.

Cheers.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Bill Dedman <Bill.Dedman@msnbc.com>

**To:** Brenner, Eliot

**Cc:** Burnell, Scott; OPA Resource; OPA2 Resource; Resource, OPA3; OPA4 Resource; OPA1 RESOURCE

**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:49:37 2011

**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Thanks, Eliot, for posting my comment.

As soon as I heard from readers that the NRC was disputing the point about core damage frequency vs. release, to be conservative I made a change in the story. That was on Saturday. If you or anyone from the NRC had sent me that point

earlier, I would have made the change then. I was in correspondence with Mr. Burnell before and after the story was published -- if he had a challenge to our wording, why didn't he send me a note about this immediately on Thursday?

What that difference boils down to is "probably" or "could." Your FAQ, which says that core damage does not "imply" release, seems designed to lead the reader to think that it could not happen. Clearly, by NRC definitions, core damage can lead to release of radiation. I use the word "could" in the second paragraph: "an earthquake strong enough to cause damage to the reactor's core, which could expose the public to radiation."

You question why we waited for "50 paragraphs" to say that the NRC says the plants are safe. You've stumped me there. That point is made quite clearly in the 14th graf of a 4,000-word story:

The NRC, the federal agency responsible for nuclear power safety, says the odds are in the public's favor.

"Operating nuclear power plants are safe," the NRC said when it reported the new risk estimates. Every plant is designed with a margin of safety beyond the strongest earthquake anticipated in that area, the NRC says. But the NRC also says the margin of safety has been reduced.

Your overall point -- this document was not intended to be used to rank the risk -- doesn't seem to hold water. As you know, government agencies rarely rank anything, usually out of fear of upsetting constituents such as local governments or industries, although a ranking would better inform the public. The Census puts out poverty figures for metro areas, in alphabetical order. It doesn't rank the metro areas, lest anyone feel bad. But that doesn't mean that the Census staff hasn't given its best figures. And we, of course, rank the metro areas by those figures. That's our job. The same applies here. The NRC technical staff, of course, gave its best estimates, in a public document. As we told the readers, it chose the most conservative figure. (When I asked your staff to send me figures for the western reactors, so I could complete the list of 104, your staff passed on from the technical staff only one figure for each reactor in the country: the most conservative figure, the weakest-link figure. That led to us using that figure for all the plants, along with the report's description that it had no basis for weighting a weighted average.) It's entirely appropriate -- not "highly misleading" -- for us to rank the plants by that figure.

Again, thanks for your assistance in posting my comment.

Regards,

Bill

P.S. Just for clarification: While dissing us to other reporters, some of your staff has referred to us as MSNBC. We're not. That's a separate company, the TV network, in New York. We're msnbc.com, the news Web site co-owned by NBC and Microsoft, on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Wash. The companies have always had different boards, editors, staffs. They're half-sisters, with one owner in common. Say what you want, but get our name right! It is confusing; one would think that, say, the folks at HomeDepot.com work for Home Depot, but in our case, no.

 **msnbc.com**

Bill Dedman | investigative reporter

NBC News and msnbc.com, the news site, a joint venture of NBC and Microsoft

[bill.dedman@msnbc.com](mailto:bill.dedman@msnbc.com)

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 [breakingnews.com](http://breakingnews.com)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:57 AM  
**To:** Bill Dedman  
**Subject:** RE: nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

I had a quick look at your post and we will give you the electrons to restate your case.

What troubles me is the story, among other things, does not differentiate between core damage frequency and the less likely event of a release, though the casual reader might come away with that impression. It is a one-note story that picks one element of plant safety to the exclusion of everything else and without context. It makes no reference to additional plant protective measures ordered into place post 9-11 that prepare plants to deal with severe incidents over and above the built in safety system redundancies. This document was intended to screen in/out plants where an additional look might be warranted, not rank risk.

That said, it also took by my count 50 paragraphs to get to the report's line that "there was no immediate concern regarding adequate protection." As an old wire service hack, that's buried a little too far down in my book for such a critical piece of information.

Your response should be posted shortly.

Eliot

---

**From:** Bill Dedman [mailto:Bill.Dedman@msnbc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:02 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** nrc blog comment awaiting moderation

Eliot,

Good morning.

My comment on your post is awaiting moderation.

<http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov/2011/03/18/dont-believe-everything-you-read/>

Will it be posted?

Regards,

Bill

 **msnbc.com**

Bill Dedman | investigative reporter

NBC News and msnbc.com, the news site, a joint venture of NBC and Microsoft

[bill.dedman@msnbc.com](mailto:bill.dedman@msnbc.com) | cell (b)(6)

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archive of stories and videos: <http://dedman.msnbc.com>

blog: <http://OpenChannel.msnbc.com>

on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/billdedman>

on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/investigative.reporter>

 **msnbc.com**  **TODAYshow.com**  **Newsvine.com**  **EveryBlock.com**  
 **breakingnews.com**

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:47 AM  
**To:** Juliana Hoskinson  
**Subject:** RE: Behind Paywall  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Thanks. appreciate it.

---

**From:** Juliana Hoskinson [mailto:jhoskinson@bulletinnews.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:44 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; Ledford, Joey  
**Subject:** RE: Behind Paywall

Hi Eliot,

Thanks for the story. We had already begun the publishing process when you sent it. We have found the full text and we're updating the briefing and clips with the material.

Best,  
Juliana.

**Juliana Hoskinson**  
Director of Product Management, Bulletin News  
11190 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 130  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 483-6192 (direct)  
(b)(6) (cell)  
(703) 483-6112 (fax)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:27 AM  
**To:** nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com  
**Cc:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; Ledford, Joey  
**Subject:** FW: Behind Paywall

Any chance you can lay hands on this one?

---

**From:** Ledford, Joey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:25 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** Behind Paywall

Eliot, this story resulted from the Graham tour yesterday, wasn't in the clips and is behind the Greenville News' paywall. Can you ask them to retrieve it?

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20110323/NEWS/303230031>

Bu/1012

The lead is all there is online:

## **Nuclear industry works to sustain rebirth**

**Graham tours Oconee, fears Japan crisis will kill reactor renaissance**

BY ANNA SIMON • CLEMSON BUREAU • PUBLISHED: MARCH 23, 2011 2:00AM

The nuclear industry in the United States and its allies have launched a campaign to reassure the public and keep alive a budding renaissance of new reactor construction as Japan struggles to control a damaged nuclear complex.

**Joey Ledford**

**Public Affairs Officer**

**Region II – Atlanta, Ga.**

**O: 404.997.4416**

**C:** (b)(6)

[joey.ledford@nrc.gov](mailto:joey.ledford@nrc.gov)



---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:20 AM  
**To:** Milano, Patrick  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

Only a couple of extra notifications to Security so they don't freak out over the video gear.

I spoke to the producer and politely said, ex-journalist to journalist, that this might be the most boring footage ever to appear on TV. He said he understood, but he'd be listening Thursday and would use that meeting to explain to his bosses why it would/wouldn't be worthwhile to come by Tuesday.

---

**From:** Milano, Patrick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:12 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

Is there anything special that we must do if they want to videotape the meeting?

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:23 PM  
**To:** Milano, Patrick  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

Can't stop a news organization from attending a public meeting. Just that simple. I'll try and point out how boring it'll be.

---

**From:** Milano, Patrick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:19 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

If he attends, will he be allowed to take video of the meeting?

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:17 PM  
**To:** Milano, Patrick  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

I can't bar him from the meeting, but I'll do my best to discourage him.

---

**From:** Milano, Patrick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:11 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: What meeting???

He wanted to attend (with a camera crew) a Watts Bar 2 meeting. I told him that the meeting on Thursday was just a teleconference meeting to discuss the status of the remaining RAI questions regarding I&C. He now wants to attend the Fire Protection Report review meeting on Tuesday, March 29. His story is about how the Japanese events have impacted ongoing work at the NRC.

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:52 PM  
**To:** Milano, Patrick  
**Subject:** What meeting???  
**Importance:** High

I'm about to call the guy – any idea what meeting?

---

**From:** Yeonhee Hah <yhhah@kins.re.kr>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:50 AM  
**To:** wgpcnews@oecd-nea.org  
**Subject:** [wgpcnews] Fukushima event - KINS Press Conference 22 March 2011  
**Attachments:** image003.png; KINS Press Conference.pdf

Dear all,

Let me share the KINS Press Conference news with you as attached. It was held in Seoul Press Center on 22 March led by KINS President, Dr. Choul Ho Yun, for foreign journalists in Korea. As you see at the title of the article "South Korea Sticks With Its Nuclear Plans", Korea has no change in the nuclear programs. Instead, it is planning a comprehensive check-up on the safety of nuclear power plants, including their ability to withstand natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to call your attention on the feedback of communication actions undertaken by each NRO after Japan event. Let me invite all the WGPC members to share such information with Flashnews users.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best regards,  
Yeonhee

**Yeonhee Hah**

**International Cooperation & Coordination Dept.**

Tel : (042)868-0120  
Fax : (042)861-2496  
e-mail : [yhhah@kins.re.kr](mailto:yhhah@kins.re.kr)

34, Gwahak-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, Korea, 305-338

 **한국원자력안전기술원**  
KINS KOREA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SAFETY



MARCH 22, 2011, 7:44 PM KST

## South Korea Sticks With Its Nuclear Plans

Japan's nuclear crisis has provoked jitters over nuclear safety around the world. And South Korea is no exception in world-wide efforts to dispel increasing public anxiety over nuclear power plants.

But at the same time, South Korea is sticking by its nuclear plans.

"There is no change in the government's plan for expansion of nuclear power plants," said Yun Choul-ho, president of the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety, said during a press briefing Tuesday.

"We believe there is no alternative to nuclear energy at this stage, and instead we can take this opportunity for reviewing nuclear safety, as well as for expanding exports of nuclear technology," he said.

He said the government plans a comprehensive check-up on the safety of nuclear power plants in Korea, including their ability to withstand natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis. South Korea is not quake-prone. A relatively big earthquake with a 5.0 magnitude struck in 1978, which left two injured and destroyed around 100 buildings.

Currently 21 nuclear power plants are under operation, seven under construction, and many more on the drawing board, according to the government's long-term energy plan.

The expansion of nuclear energy has been integral to President Lee Myung-bak's energy policy. Late last year, the government said it will get 35 nuclear power plants up and running by 2024. If everything goes as planned, nuclear electricity will make up about 50 % of the nation's electricity consumption, up from the current 30%.

The government seems to believe that the benefits from nuclear energy are bigger than potential woes, despite the crisis in Japan and ensuing decisions by other countries, such as Germany, to shutter nuclear reactors or put off a decision to extend the operation of existing reactors.

"Up until now, not a single case that could be classified as an accident has occurred, further proof that we have the best safety practices in the world," Mr. Lee said during his bi-weekly radio address on Monday.

Mr. Yun noted the country's nuclear reactors are relatively safe. Its nuclear industry has had only minor incidents that would lead to automatic shutdown.

One way to gauge the performance of a power plant is 'unplanned capability loss factor,' or the ratio of unplanned outages of energy production during a given period of time. According to the website of International Atomic Energy Agency, South Korea's ratio is 0.5% compared to the world-wide average of 5.5% in 2009, the latest for which the data are available.



European Pressphoto Agency  
Yun Choul-Ho, President of South Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety

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**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:19 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Hi – really appreciate your help.  
Ayesha updated a story we had coming out of Albany on this.  
Bests / Roberta

22:04 22Mar11 RTRS-UPDATE 1-New York nuke plant seismic review gets top priority

- \* Governor wants "long-standing safety questions" answered
- \* Indian Point plant one of 27 in federal seismic review
- \* Entergy says its plant is built to withstand any quakes

(Adds comments from NRC)

By Dan Wiessner

ALBANY, N.Y., March 22 (Reuters) - U.S. regulators have promised to make the Indian Point nuclear power plant near New York City their top priority in a review of seismic risk at U.S. nuclear plants, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Tuesday.

The plant 25 miles (40 km) of New York City, already a source of safety concern among state officials, has faced renewed scrutiny since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that crippled Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex.

Cuomo, a Democrat who has worked to prevent the federal relicensing of the Indian Point facility, said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has pledged to make the plant its "top priority" as it reviews earthquake risk at 27 nuclear facilities throughout the country.

"It is essential that the NRC move quickly to answer the significant and longstanding safety questions surrounding Indian Point," Cuomo said after New York state officials met with regulators at the NRC's Maryland headquarters.

An NRC report in September found Indian Point was at the greatest risk from seismic activity among the nuclear plants under review. Indian Point sits near two geological fault lines. The plant provides up to 30 percent of New York City's power.

The NRC will be investigating 27 plants' ability to handle earthquakes.

"It is important to note that while the study indicated the seismic risk has increased for some plants, it is not by a margin that would give us cause for any immediate concern," Eliot Brenner, a spokesman for the NRC said in a statement.

Indian Point owner Entergy Corp <ETR.N> purchased a full-page advertisement in The New York Times on Tuesday touting comments by U.S. Energy Secretary Steve Chu saying that the reactor is safe and an NRC report saying all U.S. nuclear plants remain safe.

It was built to withstand an earthquake 100 times the magnitude of any quake measured in the area, Entergy said in the advertisement. The company has pledged to conduct its own review of seismic risk and safety procedures.

Entergy also said it is considering a plan to store mobile emergency generators off-site that could be relocated to Indian Point after any emergency. Reactors at the crippled Japanese plant overheated when the tsunami knocked out backup generators to power the cooling system. The quake had cut off main power.

The NRC has agreed to share data related to seismic risk with the state and will include the governor's staff in on-site reviews of the plant, said Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy.

"This is an emotional topic, and we want to make sure we have all the facts before we make a decision," said Cuomo, who added that he does not know when the review would take place but that it would be "expeditious."

(([ID:nN22158071] [ID:nN22161754]))

(Additional reporting by Ayesha Rascoe; Editing by Daniel Trotta and Will Dunham)

((daniel.trotta@thomsonreuters.com; +1 646 223 6143)) Keywords: NUCLEAR USA/NEWYORK

20:30 22Mar11 -WRAPUP 1-US public support for more nuclear power slips

- \* Support wanes after Japanese nuclear power plant crisis
- \* New York nuke plant seismic review gets top priority
- \* Safety upgrades at US nuclear plants worry UN agency

By Christopher Doering

WASHINGTON, March 22 (Reuters) - U.S. public support for expanding nuclear power appears to be slipping after Japan's nuclear crisis while New York's governor said on Tuesday an aging plant near New York City will be the top priority in a federal review of earthquake risk to such facilities.

President Barack Obama last year announced loan guarantees to build the first U.S. nuclear power plant in nearly three decades. But the nuclear disaster triggered by Japan's 9.0 magnitude earthquake may be making Americans less inclined to embrace more nuclear energy due to safety fears.

In a poll released on Monday by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 52 percent of 1,004 U.S. adults surveyed from March 17-20 said they oppose the expansion of nuclear power now, up from 47 percent last October.

A poll of 814 U.S. adults released on Tuesday by the Civil Society Institute, which has been critical of nuclear energy, found that less than half of those questioned -- 46 percent -- said they support more nuclear power reactors in the United States and 44 percent oppose new reactors.

Fifty-eight percent of those questioned said they are less supportive of expanding nuclear power in the United States than they were a month ago. The poll was conducted March 15-16.

"The Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster in Japan is causing a renewed and intensifying skepticism about the future of nuclear power," said Pam Solo, president of the Civil Society Institute, based in Newton, Massachusetts.

Many Americans have harbored safety concerns about nuclear power since the 1979 disaster at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has pledged to make the Indian Point nuclear power plant north of New York City their top priority in a review of seismic risk at U.S. nuclear plants.

[ID:nN22194347]

#### PLANT'S SAFETY DEFENDED

Indian Point owner Entergy Corp <ETR.N> purchased a full-page advertisement in the New York Times on Tuesday touting comments by U.S. Energy Secretary Steve Chu saying that the reactor is safe and an NRC report saying all U.S. nuclear plants remain safe.

An NRC report last September found Indian Point, situated near two geological fault lines, was at the greatest risk from seismic activity among the 27 nuclear plants under review. The plant provides up to 30 percent of New York City's power.

Entergy also said it is considering a plan to store mobile emergency generators off-site that could be relocated to Indian Point after any emergency. Reactors at the crippled Japanese plant overheated when the tsunami knocked out backup generators to power the cooling system. The quake had cut off main power.

A report from the International Atomic Energy Agency questioned whether utilities licensed to run older U.S. nuclear reactors are doing enough to upgrade plant safety.

The report, issued by the U.N. nuclear watchdog two days before the earthquake and tsunami that crippled the Fukushima power plant in Japan, sounds an alarm about the safety at some older U.S. nuclear plants. [ID:nN22161754]

The IAEA assessed how America's nuclear plants are regulated at the request of the NRC.

Obama last week ordered a comprehensive review of the safety of U.S. nuclear power facilities, maintaining his support for nuclear energy while seeking to apply lessons from the situation in Japan. [ID:nN17190337]

Some lawmakers and anti-nuclear activists have called for safety measures in quake-prone California, where the Pacific Gas & Electric's <PCG.N> Diablo Canyon plant and Edison International's <EIX.N> San Onofre plant sit near faults.

"New information about the severe seismic risk ... make clear that these two plants require immediate attention in light of the catastrophic events in Japan," said Barbara Boxer, who along with fellow California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein has asked the NRC to conduct a review of the safety and emergency preparedness of the plants.  
(Editing by Will Dunham) ((christopher.doering@thomsonreuters.com; +202 898 8394)) Keywords: NUCLEAR USA/

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**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

Reuters

Phone: 202 898 8376  
Mobile: (b)(6)  
roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:04 PM  
**To:** Rampton, Roberta (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Commission vote not yet available.

I can confirm details of the story.

So the quotes are different, you can quote me thusly: "This is a program that was underway before the Japanese incident and will be folded in as part of the NRC's look at lessons from Japan that might be considered as we examine the United States' regulatory regime in the comprehensive review proposed by Chairman Jaczko."

"Also, it is important to note that while the study indicated the seismic risk has increased for some plants, it is not by a margin that would give us cause for any immediate concern. As part of the long-planned activities we will be asking the plants to provide us with more information regarding their ability to handle seismic events and will be going through the plants to verify that data."

Hope that gets you covered.

eliot

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:56 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Hi Eliot - is there some info you could provide so we could match this story from platts? We are trying to confirm. Any written results from the commission vote on the reviews would be greatly appreciated !

Bests / Roberta Rampton

(b)(6)

18:34 22Mar11 PLTS-PLATTS: 121--US NRC to check seismic risk of 27 nuclear units; Indian Point first in 2012 <PEP121> Washington (Platts)--22Mar2011/634 pm EDT/2234 GMT

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a seismic risk assessment of Entergy's Indian Point plant in New York next year, the first of 27 reviews of nuclear power units at 17 plants, agency spokeswoman Beth Hayden said Tuesday.

Separately, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko "has personally committed to inspect Indian Point," located about 35 miles north of New York City, although "no date has not been determined" for the visit, Hayden said.

The NRC reported these nuclear units will receive the seismic review next year: Indian Point 2, Indian Point 3, Limerick 1, Limerick 2, Peach Bottom 2, Peach Bottom 3, Seabrook, Crystal River 3, Farley 1, Farley 2, North Anna 1, North Anna 2, Oconee 1, Oconee 2, Oconee 3, St. Lucie 1, St. Lucie 2, Sequoyah 1, Sequoyah 2, Summer, Watts Bar 1, Dresden 2, Dresden 3, Duane Arnold, Perry 1, River Bend and Wolf Creek.

The earthquake risk review is part of a new assessment NRC conducted based on 2008 revised US Geological Survey data of seismic activity in the eastern and central US, said Scott Burnell, an NRC spokesman. The review pre-dated the earthquake and tsunami that wreaked havoc this month on the Fukushima nuclear stations.

Burnell categorized the findings as a "very broad bush indicator" that is not sufficient to determine the odds for earthquakes at a given nuclear reactor site.

The NRC is planning to send letters to plant operators late this year.

"The expectation is this analysis would show where plants could improve what already is an acceptable response to seismic events," Burnell said. The 27 units selected for review showed the largest increase in seismic risk from a 1980s-era USGS study, he said.

The Indian Point site was selected as the first to be inspected by NRC next year because the revised seismic data showed the largest increase in seismic risk increase from the previous study, Hayden said.

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**From:** Doug Levy <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:03 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: The West Coast weighs in

Jeez. Crazy how lame that is.

On Mar 22, 2011, at 9:27 PM, "Brenner, Eliot" <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)> wrote:

Fyi. This is going to run for months and months and perhaps for years given the slow pace of regulation.

Just thought I'd share what I was referring to.

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Dean, Bill  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 16:12:54 2011  
**Subject:** The West Coast weighs in

From: McCray, Nathan (EPW) [[mailto:Nathan\\_McCray@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Nathan_McCray@epw.senate.gov)]

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:32 PM

Subject: California Nuclear Plants Rated Highest Seismic Hazard

For Immediate Release  
8832

Contact: Mary Kerr or Kate Gilman (EPW/Boxer): 202-224-

March 22, 2011 [mary\\_kerr@epw.senate.gov](mailto:mary_kerr@epw.senate.gov)  
<[mailto:mary\\_kerr@epw.senate.gov](mailto:mary_kerr@epw.senate.gov)><[mailto:mary\\_kerr@epw.senate.gov](mailto:mary_kerr@epw.senate.gov)> or  
[kate\\_gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:kate_gilman@epw.senate.gov)  
<[mailto:kate\\_gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:kate_gilman@epw.senate.gov)><[mailto:kate\\_gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:kate_gilman@epw.senate.gov)>

U.S. Senate Committee on

Environment and Public Works

Bu/1016

NRC Informs Boxer That Two

Nuclear Plants Are Rated Highest Seismic Hazard Both plants in California

Washington, DC - Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, has received new information from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) indicating that two California nuclear plants are the only ones in the nation that are located in the highest seismic hazard areas. According to the NRC, its rating was based on "the level of seismic activity and the potential for large magnitude earthquakes."

Senators Boxer said: "New information about the severe seismic risk at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and the Diablo Canyon Power Plant make clear that these two plants require immediate attention in light of the catastrophic events in Japan."

Senator Boxer and Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) sent a letter (attached) to the NRC asking detailed questions about the two California nuclear plants' design and operation, type of reactors, and preparedness to withstand an earthquake or tsunami.

Senator Boxer added: "Given this new information, the questions raised in the letter to the NRC deserve immediate attention."

###

The text of the letter is pasted below:

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Gregory Jaczko

Chairman

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

The unfolding nuclear disaster in Japan has raised questions about the safety of nuclear power plants here in the U.S. As Senators from California, we are particularly interested in the safety of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, located in San Clemente, and the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near San Luis Obispo, both of which are near earthquake faults.

Roughly 424,000 live within 50 miles of the Diablo Canyon and 7.4 million live within 50 miles of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Although many safety measures have been taken to address potential hazards associated with these facilities, we need to ensure that the risk is fully evaluated.

For example, a 2008 California Energy Commission report presented very clear warnings of potential threats at both of these plants. This report found that the San Onofre plant could experience "larger and more frequent earthquakes" than the maximum 7.0 magnitude earthquake predicted when the plant was designed. It is our understanding that the NRC has not taken action to address these warnings in the report. It is also our understanding that the 2008 report found that there is an additional fault near the Diablo Canyon plant that should be taken into consideration as part of NRC's relicensing process. We want to know if the NRC will address all of the threats, including seismic threats, described in the 2008 report at these facilities.

Therefore we ask that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) perform a thorough inspection at these two plants to evaluate their safety and emergency preparedness plans.

In addition, we ask the NRC to answer the questions below regarding plant design and operations, type of reactor, and preparedness to withstand an earthquake or tsunami and other potential threats.

#### Plant Design and Operations

1. What changes to the design or operation of these facilities have improved safety at the plants since they began operating in the mid-1980s?
2. What emergency notification systems have been installed at California nuclear power plants? Has there ever been a lapse of these systems during previous earthquakes or emergencies?
3. What safety measures are in place to ensure continued power to California reactors in the event of an extended power failure?

#### Type of Reactor

1. What are the differences and similarities between the reactors being used in California (pressurized water reactors) and those in Japan (boiling water reactors), as well as the facilities used to house the reactors, including the standards to which they were built and their ability to withstand natural and manmade disasters?

#### Earthquakes and Tsunamis

1. We have been told that both Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station are designed to withstand the maximum credible threat at both plants, which we understand to be much less than the 9.0 earthquake that hit Japan. What assumptions have you made about the ability of both plants to withstand an earthquake or tsunami? Given the disaster in Japan, what are our options to provide these plants with a greater margin for safety?
2. Have new faults been discovered near Diablo Canyon or San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station since those plants began operations? If so, how have the plants been modified to account for the increased risk of an earthquake? How will the NRC consider information on ways to address risks posed by faults near these plants that is produced pursuant to state law or recommendations by state agencies during the NRC relicensing process?
3. What are the evacuation plans for both plants in the event of an emergency? We understand that Highway 1 is the main route out of San Luis Obispo, what is the plan for evacuation of the nearby population if an earthquake takes out portions of the highway and a nuclear emergency occurs simultaneously?
4. What is the NRC's role in monitoring radiation in the event of a nuclear accident both here and abroad? What is the role of EPA and other federal agencies?
5. What monitoring systems currently are in place to track potential impacts on the U.S., including California, associated with the events in Japan?
6. Which federal agency is leading the monitoring effort and which agencies have responsibility for assessing human health impacts? What impacts have occurred to date on the health or environment of the U.S. or are currently projected or modeled in connection with the events in Japan?
7. What contingency plans are in place to ensure that the American public is notified in the event that hazardous materials associated with the events in Japan pose an imminent threat to the U.S.?

The NRC was created in the mid-1970s specifically to ensure the protection of public health and safety with regard to civilian nuclear power. The Commission plays an essential role ensuring that we learn from nuclear accidents and near misses. We hope you agree that we must identify whatever lessons are to be learned from the disaster in Japan in order to make facilities in the United States as safe as possible.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the safety of our nation's nuclear power plants and to make the changes necessary to ensure a nuclear tragedy does not occur in this country.

Sincerely,

Senator Barbara Boxer

Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Nathan McCray

Majority Staff

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

202-224-8832

202-224-1273 Fax

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:21 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** RE: Japan interviews

(b)(5)

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**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Japan interviews

(b)(5)

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Loyd, Susan  
**Cc:** Jaczko, Gregory; Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 20:53:38 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Japan interviews

Susan: I have CNN on my top 3 list of suspects for TV in Japan, or from here. I have already traded notes with Chuck, written him a long preparatory memo, and I am working with a DOS flack in Tokyo as we speak to start lining things up. Every producer is your best friend if you have a guest they want. They would interview an NRC stock clerk at this point if they had a pulse and wore an NRC shirt. Next week they won't remember who we are.

I encourage you to get Citrix into your home computer so you are not stuck working via blackberry. If I can help you let me know, but the techies at 1234 should be able to talk you through it once you get the software on a thumb drive.

Eliot

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:43 PM  
**To:** Jaczko, Gregory; Brenner, Eliot; Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** Re: Japan interviews

We could go back to Piers Morgan Tonight and/or Anderson Cooper. They have been in Japan and doing a lot of indepth coverage. The Exec Producer was very interested in getting the Chairman and called me multiple times. They would probably be thrilled to also work in an interview with Chuck.

BU/1017

Sent from an NRC Blackberry  
Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Jaczko, Gregory  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Batkin, Joshua  
**Cc:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 17:55:14 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Japan interviews

If chuck is willing, let him go. USaid was inquiring with me about it. I forgot to pass on. I told them if my team was willing to do it, would be fine with me. Lets chat tomorrow about my requests. The metric is if it is in the interest of nuclear safety and or communication of nuclear safety I will be more willing to do it☺

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:53 PM  
**To:** Jaczko, Gregory; Batkin, Joshua  
**Cc:** Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Japan interviews

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200

C:

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:31 PM  
**To:** Casto, Chuck  
**Cc:** Hannah, Roger; 'Chang, Benjamin'; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** press stuff

Chuck: the hubbub over the arrival of the Bechtel pump may put you on stage sooner rather than later.

If a State Dept. press guy named Ben Chang hooks up with you to arrange a briefing, please help him. (cell (b)(6)) Likewise for any Embassy press person. If this does not happen Wednesday, I want to engineer something for Thursday. (Ben will be traveling with the Ambassador at least early today, but he and I will be in touch as best we can.)

Here are some q/as on the more sensitive issues to guide you:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Chuck: here is a link to some other q/a on our website:

<http://www.nrc.gov/japan/faqs-related-to-japan.pdf>

Also, if you get into a general press situation, open with about a minute or two of description of what the NRC team has been doing, and touch on whatever our role was in development of this Bechtel equipment. Write out a few notes to work off of to keep you focused. Take questions for 10-15 minutes max, if it gets old just say you have time for one more (or have someone cut off the briefing). Then, to the extent you can stand it, do one-on-ones with TV. (b)(5)

60 minutes (or CBS); ABC has been asking; and CNN. After that, NBC, Fox and NHK. If you can let each get some film of NRC employees working, all the better. It pads out their report. Perhaps you can set up two opposing chairs in our workspace, or in the lobby of a hotel, that makes for a more relaxed, sit-down interview for the TV types. It will keep you off your feet. Listen to the question all the way through before answering. It's very tempting to start into an answer, but let them finish before you start.

If there is time, Ben or someone else can give you a short murder board to get you comfortable with the worst questions. Have 2-3 main points and stick with them. Call me or Roger Hannah if you need some long distance coaching. Roger's phone is: (b)(6). Mine is (b)(6).

Thus endeth "Big Time Media 101."

Eliot

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:07 PM  
**To:** 'Chang, Benjamin'  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck  
**Subject:** RE: NRC seeks media assistance

Here are Chuck;s coordinates:

Chuck Casto  
bb/cell: (b)(6)  
email: [chuck.casto@nrc.gov](mailto:chuck.casto@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Chang, Benjamin [mailto:ChangBE@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:53 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hammer, Michael A  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck  
**Subject:** Re: NRC seeks media assistance

Will do. What's your number?

A few factors in play, incl roos and willard and bartolini trip to sendai today I'll be accompanying as pao so will touch base with you when we are en route (soon).

Thanks

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 07:07 PM  
**To:** Hammer, Michael A  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck <Chuck.Casto@nrc.gov>; Chang, Benjamin  
**Subject:** RE: NRC seeks media assistance

Thanks, Mike.

Ben, please ping me when you get this so we can start the dialogue and I can let you know what I have in mind, Chuck's schedule permitting. I am thinking of Thursday given the time differences, Friday at the latest.

Eliot

---

**From:** Hammer, Michael A [mailto:HammerMA@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:05 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck; Chang, Benjamin  
**Subject:** RE: NRC seeks media assistance

+ Ben Chang – our guru on the ground. Mike

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Bv/1019

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:04 PM

**To:** Hammer, Michael A

**Cc:** Casto, Chuck

**Subject:** NRC seeks media assistance

Do you guys have someone who could work with our team leader in Tokyo to set up a media availability to be followed by a few one-on-ones with some TV. Our guy is about ready (if I give him some talking points) and I would be very appreciative if someone at the embassy or USAID could help out on logistics and as a minder. We don't have a flack on our traveling roster.

Please let me know, and thanks.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

301-415-8200 (8201 is the direct)

Cell (b)(6)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:05 PM  
**To:** 'roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Correct. This has zero, zip nada to do with yesterday's meeting, other than as work in progress it will become part of our broader review. Think my previous message should help you in that regard. On background ... There was a delegation from NY in to visit with us today and they did a lot of press afterwards which is generating stories.

eliot

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:03 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** Re: Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Apols - Ayesha tells me this is not the results of the vote fr yesterday, but rather a carry-on from an earlier study -- do I have that right?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Rampton, Roberta (M Edit Ops)  
**To:** 'eliot.brenner@nrc.gov' <eliot.brenner@nrc.gov>  
**Cc:** Rascoe, Ayesha r. (M Edit Ops)  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 19:55:43 2011  
**Subject:** Reuters - seeking matcher on 27 plants

Hi Eliot - is there some info you could provide so we could match this story from platts? We are trying to confirm. Any written results from the commission vote on the reviews would be greatly appreciated !

Bests / Roberta Rampton

(b)(6)

18:34 22Mar11 PLTS-PLATTS: 121--US NRC to check seismic risk of 27 nuclear units; Indian Point first in 2012 <PEP121> Washington (Platts)--22Mar2011/634 pm EDT/2234 GMT

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a seismic risk assessment of Entergy's Indian Point plant in New York next year, the first of 27 reviews of nuclear power units at 17 plants, agency spokeswoman Beth Hayden said Tuesday.

Separately, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko "has personally committed to inspect Indian Point," located about 35 miles north of New York City, although "no date has not been determined" for the visit, Hayden said.

The NRC reported these nuclear units will receive the seismic review next year: Indian Point 2, Indian Point 3, Limerick 1, Limerick 2, Peach Bottom 2, Peach Bottom 3, Seabrook, Crystal River 3, Farley 1, Farley 2, North Anna 1, North Anna 2, Oconee 1, Oconee 2, Oconee 3, St. Lucie 1, St. Lucie 2, Sequoyah 1, Sequoyah 2, Summer, Watts Bar 1, Dresden 2, Dresden 3, Duane Arnold, Perry 1, River Bend and Wolf Creek.

BU/1020

The earthquake risk review is part of a new assessment NRC conducted based on 2008 revised US Geological Survey data of seismic activity in the eastern and central US, said Scott Burnell, an NRC spokesman. The review pre-dated the earthquake and tsunami that wreaked havoc this month on the Fukushima nuclear stations.

Burnell categorized the findings as a "very broad brush indicator" that is not sufficient to determine the odds for earthquakes at a given nuclear reactor site.

The NRC is planning to send letters to plant operators late this year.

"The expectation is this analysis would show where plants could improve what already is an acceptable response to seismic events," Burnell said. The 27 units selected for review showed the largest increase in seismic risk from a 1980s-era USGS study, he said.

The Indian Point site was selected as the first to be inspected by NRC next year because the revised seismic data showed the largest increase in seismic risk increase from the previous study, Hayden said.

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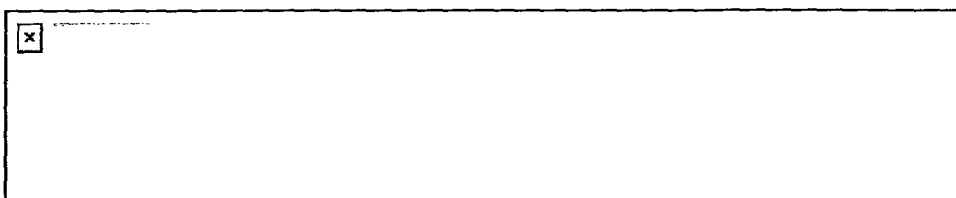
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**From:** Library Resource <Library.Resource@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:31 PM  
**To:** EPUB - Energy Daily  
**Subject:** FW: Your issue of The Energy Daily  
**Attachments:** ed0323.pdf

---

**From:** The Energy Daily[SMTP:ED@CHEMBUSINESS-MEDIA.COM]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:30:27 PM  
**To:** Library Resource  
**Subject:** Your issue of The Energy Daily  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

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Please find attached your issue of today's  
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Sincerely,  
Sabrina Ousmaal  
Associate Publisher

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## March 23, 2011 Headlines

### California Judge Halts Implementation Of Greenhouse Programs

In at least a temporary derailment of California's plans to launch a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program next year, a state judge has ordered a key state agency to halt implementation of a broad regulatory scheme for reducing the state's emissions until it fully analyzes alternatives to emissions trading, such as carbon taxes. California Superior Court Judge Ernest Goldsmith also ordered the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to complete an environmental analysis of the regulatory scheme, known as the "scoping plan," before resuming implementation of the plan, which lays out a broad array of programs aimed at helping California return its emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 as required by the state's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). AB 32 ordered CARB to prepare a scoping plan "to create a regulatory path" for achieving the law's emission-reduction mandate. The law specifically directed the agency to include provisions that would achieve "the maximum..."

### Appeals Court Panel Weighs Intervention In Yucca Closure Fight

At a hearing that mainly focused on procedural questions about legal challenges to the Obama administration's move to kill the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository, a panel of federal judges appeared to go out of its way Tuesday to sharply question the Energy Department's handling of the matter—with one saying DOE's action appeared illegal. In closely watched oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit, a three-judge panel focused only occasionally on the merits of the Obama administration's controversial 2009 decision to scuttle the Yucca repository. Instead the bulk of the judges' questions were about whether the administration and Nuclear

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Regulatory Commission (NRC) have taken "final agency action" on the Yucca matter, a finding that would clear the way for court action under administrative law. However, the judges' questions occasionally drifted closer to the merits of the case, brought by Washington, South Carolina and South Carolina's...

### **'High' Radiation Levels Found 35 Miles From Stricken Japanese Nuke**

"High" levels of radioactive iodine and cesium have been found in soil up to 35 miles away from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan, where progress in restoring reactor cooling systems Tuesday was tempered by continuing concern and uncertainty about the status of several spent fuel pools that may be damaged and overheating, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Japanese authorities said. In addition to elevated radiation in soil in areas far outside the 20-kilometer—or 12-mile—evacuation zone around the plant, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) Tuesday measured iodine-131, cesium-134 and cesium-137 in seawater near the water discharge outlets for the six-unit Fukushima plant at levels well above regulatory limits for liquid effluent from the facility. Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) said that because seawater sampling had been done at only one location, the Nuclear Security Commission of Japan "may be unable to present an...

### **BLM To Hold Four Coal Lease Sales In Wyoming**

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Tuesday announced his agency this year will hold four coal lease sales in Wyoming on Powder River Basin tracts covering more than 7,400 acres and estimated to contain 758 million tons of low-sulfur, minable coal. Salazar said in a statement total bonus bids...

### **Florida Muni Buying Power From New South Carolina Reactors**

Santee Cooper announced Monday it has signed a letter of intent with the Orlando Utilities Commission to sell the Florida municipal utility 5 to 10 percent of the capacity and output that state-owned South Carolina electric utility owns in the two new reactors it plans to build with South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. at the existing V. C. Summer nuclear...

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## Appeals Court Panel Weighs Intervention In Yucca Closure Fight

BY JEFF BEATTIE

At a hearing that mainly focused on procedural questions about legal challenges to the Obama administration's move to kill the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository, a panel of federal judges appeared to go out of its way Tuesday to sharply question the Energy Department's handling of the matter—with one saying DOE's action appeared illegal.

In closely watched oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit, a three-judge panel focused only occasionally on the merits of the Obama administration's controversial 2009 decision to scuttle the Yucca repository. Instead the bulk of the judges' questions were about whether the administration and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have taken "final agency action" on the Yucca matter, a finding that would clear the way for court action under administrative law.

(Continued on p. 4)

## California Judge Halts Implementation Of Greenhouse Programs

BY CHRIS HOLLY

In at least a temporary derailment of California's plans to launch a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program next year, a state judge has ordered a key state agency to halt implementation of a broad regulatory scheme for reducing the state's emissions until it fully analyzes alternatives to emissions trading, such as carbon taxes.

California Superior Court Judge Ernest Goldsmith also ordered the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to complete an environmental analysis of the regulatory scheme, known as the "scoping plan," before resuming implementation of the plan, which lays out a broad array of programs aimed at helping California return its emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 as required by the state's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).

AB 32 ordered CARB to prepare a scoping plan "to create a regulatory path" for achieving the law's emission-reduction mandate. The law specifically directed the agency to include provisions that would achieve "the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective"

(Continued on p. 3)

## 'High' Radiation Levels Found 35 Miles From Stricken Japanese Nuke

"High" levels of radioactive iodine and cesium

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

have been found in soil up to 35 miles away from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan, where progress in restoring reactor cooling systems Tuesday was tempered by continuing concern and uncertainty about the status of several spent fuel pools that may be damaged and overheating, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Japanese authorities said.

In addition to elevated radiation in soil in areas far outside the 20-kilometer—or 12-mile—evacuation zone

around the plant, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) Tuesday measured iodine-131, cesium-134 and cesium-137 in seawater near the water discharge outlets for the six-unit Fukushima plant at levels well above regulatory limits for liquid effluent from the facility.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) said that because seawater sampling had been done at only one location, the Nuclear Security Commission of Japan "may be unable to present an appropriate assessment" of the extent of the contamination.

NISA also said that more ocean sampling would be done by Japan's science ministry and TEPCO over the next few days, but that the contamination did not present a health threat because no people were in the vicinity due to the evacuation around the plant.

"Although measured results exceeded the allowable criteria of concentration [for liquid discharges from the plant], considering the evacuation of the residents within [a] 20-kilometer radius from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station and the current situation of usage of this ocean area, there is no immediate risk to human health," NISA

(Continued on p. 2)

## BLM To Hold Four Coal Lease Sales In Wyoming

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Tuesday announced his agency this year will hold four coal lease sales in Wyoming on Powder River Basin tracts covering more than 7,400 acres and estimated to contain 758 million tons of low-sulfur, minable coal.

Salazar said in a statement total bonus bids and royalty payments over the life of the coal tracts leases are es-

timated to generate between \$13.4 and \$21.3 billion. Salazar said almost half of that will go to Wyoming, the largest coal-producing state in the nation.

The secretary announced the sales amid continuing criticism from congressional Republicans that the Obama administration is unnecessarily restricting fossil energy development on federal lands.

The sales, to be managed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are the first of more than a dozen that BLM expects to hold for Powder River Basin coal tracts over the next three years, according to Interior.

The agency is holding the sales in response to leasing applications filed by Antelope Coal LLC, Alpha Natural Resources Inc. and Caballo Coal Co.

## 'High' Radiation Levels Found From Japanese Nuke... (Cont'd from p. 1)

said in a statement.

However, radiation monitoring on land found elevated radiation levels surprisingly far from the plant—and well outside the evacuation zone—with the only bright note being that contamination levels appear to have declined from several days ago, officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Tuesday.

Graham Andrew, special adviser to the IAEA director general on scientific and technical affairs, told government officials and reporters Tuesday that radiation levels far above natural background levels—0.1 microsieverts per hour—have been measured since Sunday.

"IAEA monitoring of gamma dose rates and beta-gamma contamination has continued over the last 24 hours," he said. "This has been carried out together with the Japanese authorities to facilitate the comparison of results.

"The IAEA took measurements at additional locations between 35 to 68 kilometers from the Fukushima plant. The dose-rate results ranged from 0.8 to 9.1 microsieverts per hour."

In a similar briefing Monday, Andrew said higher radiation levels had been detected earlier this week, with measurements being taken at distances from 56 to 200 kilometers from the Fukushima plant and some locations being surveyed twice.

"At two locations in Fukushima Prefecture, gamma dose rate and beta-gamma contamination measurements have been repeated," he said. "These measurements showed high beta-gamma contamination levels. Measurements by the IAEA and the Japanese authorities were taken at the same time and locations. The Japanese and independent IAEA measurements gave comparable results.

"Measurements of gamma dose rate and beta-gamma contamination were taken on [Sunday] March 20 at more locations. The dose-rate results ranged from 2-160 microsieverts per hour, which compares to a typical natural background level of around 0.1 microsieverts per hour. High levels of beta-gamma contamination have been measured between 16 and 58 kilometers from the plant."

Andrew said Monday that further measurements were needed to assess possible contamination beyond the area currently monitored, both closer to the facility and further away.

"We have no contamination measurements showing that that contamination levels are high at greater distances than 58 kilometers [or roughly 35 miles] from the plant, but this cannot be excluded," he added.

In regard to alpha contamination—such as that emitted by particles of plutonium—Andrew said Monday that monitoring done Sunday had found no significant alpha radiation within the evacuation zone.

Japanese authorities continued to say that while elevated radiation levels had been detected, they presented no immediate threat to public health.

However, IAEA officials said radiation levels detected in milk and vegetables grown around the Fukushima plant were far above Japanese health standards, prompting the government to direct four prefectures near the plant to restrict sales of the food. They said up to 55,000 becquerels per kilogram of iodine-131 had been found in samples of spinach taken in in the Ibaraki Prefecture, compared to Japanese regulatory limits for food of 2,000 becquerels per kilogram.

At the Fukushima Daiichi plant, TEPCO reported Tuesday that it had attached power cables to all six of the reactors at the site, but said tests had to be run before it could attempt turning on cooling systems.

Meanwhile, IAEA officials expressed concern about several spent fuel pools at the site, which can release substantial radiation if they are not covered by water.

The IAEA said it did not have any information about conditions in the spent fuel pool at the Unit 1 reactor, which suffered an explosion that shattered the upper floors of the reactor containment building March 12, which means radiation can be released directly into the environment.

The IAEA said TEPCO had continued spraying tons of seawater from fire trucks into spent fuel pools for the Unit 3 and 4 reactors to keep them cool. Both reactors suffered major explosions March 14 in their reactor containment buildings, raising concerns about damage to the spent fuel pools or their cooling systems.

Of particular concern is the Unit 4 spent fuel pool, which appears to have the highest heat load with 1,331 irradiated fuel rods and 204 unirradiated fuel rods in a facility with a maximum capacity of 1,590 rods. Some irradiated rods were added to the pool as recently as November, meaning they would be especially hot compared to older rods that have cooled somewhat.

The IAEA said significant cooling capability had been restored in the spent fuel pools for Units 5 and 6 and that temperatures in the Unit 2 spent fuel pool appeared to have stabilized around 50 degrees Centigrade, well below danger levels for boiling and evaporation.

## Florida Muni Buying Power From New South Carolina Reactors

Santee Cooper announced Monday it has signed a letter of intent with the Orlando Utilities Commission to sell the Florida municipal utility 5 to 10 percent of the capacity and output that state-owned South Carolina electric utility owns in the two new reactors it plans to build with South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. at the existing V. C. Summer nuclear plant.

Santee Cooper owns 45 percent

of the V.C. Summer expansion, and SCE&G owns 55 percent of the new reactor project. The letter of intent with the Orlando Utilities Commission also includes an option for the Florida muni to buy a portion of Santee Cooper's stake in the project.

Santee Cooper is one of several U.S. utilities involved in new reactor construction that are looking to shave down their ownership to reduce financial risks from

the multi-billion dollar projects.

The Orlando utility is the second largest muni in Florida, and already holds small stakes in the existing Crystal River and St. Lucie nuclear plants in Florida.

Meanwhile, NRG Energy Inc. and other backers of two new reactors at the South Texas Project nuclear plant in Texas announced Monday they were "reducing the scope of development" for the project until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines the appropriate regulatory response for the U.S. industry to the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant.

## California Judge Halts Greenhouse Programs... (Continued from p. 1)

fective reductions" in emissions from affected industries.

The ruling responds to a host of issues brought by a half-dozen environmental justice advocacy groups who charged that CARB's decision to embrace emission trading—rather than require industry to install specified greenhouse gas emission controls—would harm low-income populations living near power plants, oil refineries and other industrial facilities subject to the climate change statute.

The groups also charged that CARB improperly exempted certain industrial facilities and large farming and livestock operations from the mandatory emission-reduction requirements, arguing the agency was ignoring the AB 32 directive to seek "maximum" emission reductions. Further, the groups said the agency erred in not requiring emissions reductions in excess of the 1990-level-by-2020 target mandated by the statute and in exempting industrial facilities that emit less than 25,000 tons per year.

Goldsmith dismissed these claims, saying the agency was well within its legal authority to select emissions trading, to establish minimum emission thresholds, and allow exempt facilities the option of voluntarily trimming emissions.

"Given the latitude of [CARB's] quasi-legislative powers, it is within its discretion, right or wrong, in interpreting AB 32, to choose cap-and-trade as the primary methodology" for reducing emissions and backing up the trading program with some 20 direct regulatory emission-reduction programs, Goldsmith said.

However, the judge agreed with the groups' claim that CARB violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by approving the scoping plan before the agency had completed its analysis of the environmental impacts of the plan, as CEQA requires.

In addition, Goldsmith said CARB fell well short of properly analyzing alternatives to cap-and-trade, especially on the option of imposing carbon taxes or fees.

The judge noted that while CARB devoted some 10 pages of analysis of the option of taking no action to reduce emissions, its analysis of trading, direct regulation and carbon taxes ran barely more than three pages.

"Most notably, the scoping plan fails to provide meaningful information or discussion about the carbon fee (or carbon tax) alternative in the scant two paragraphs devoted to this im-

portant alternative," Goldsmith said. "The brief [15-line] reference to the carbon fee alternative consists almost entirely of bare conclusions justifying the cap-and-trade decision. Informative analysis is absent."

Goldsmith then enjoined, or halted, further implementation of the scoping plan and its emission-reduction programs until he approves a "writ of mandate" directing CARB to correct the legal deficiencies he identified. Under California law, winning plaintiffs have the privilege of writing the writ of mandate, but Goldsmith must approve the writ before it has legal force.

CARB said Monday it would appeal the decision, and worried that Goldsmith's order halting implementation of the scoping plan could threaten plan elements already underway, such as the state's low-carbon fuels standard and its motor vehicle fuel-efficiency and carbon emission standards.

"In the meantime, we are clarifying the scope of the judge's order since slowing down the implementation of all measures in the scoping plan is at odds with the court's more limited discussion of the issue regarding the environmental analysis of the cap-and-trade draft regulation," CARB spokesman Stanley Young said Monday.

"We believe plaintiffs did not intend to put on hold efforts to improve energy efficiency, establish clean car standards and develop low-carbon fuel regulations. A broadly worded writ puts at risk a range of efforts to move California to a clean energy economy and improve the environment and public health."

Attorneys familiar with California law said Tuesday that the state appeals court handling the case almost certainly will freeze Goldsmith's order pending the outcome of the appeal.

In a blog post on the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) website Monday, the national environmental organization said, "It is clear from examining arguments of both parties before the court that CARB and the environmental justice groups bringing the action against the state are committed to improving California's environment and fighting climate change and do not intend to bring AB 32 work to a halt."

"EDF expects that the parties will work to narrow the remedy so that CARB can proceed with some or most of the work to implement AB 32 while a new analysis is finalized and approved by the court."

## Appeals Court Panel Weighs Intervention ... (Continued from p. 1)

However, the judges' questions occasionally drifted closer to the merits of the case, brought by Washington, South Carolina and South Carolina's Aiken County, who want to see Yucca opened as a final repository for highly radioactive material stored at DOE sites within their borders. They argue DOE has violated the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and other federal laws in canceling the repository, which was chosen by Congress in 1987 as the sole U.S. repository site for the nation's high-level waste and spent fuel.

In one of the judges' more sweeping comments, Judge Brett Kavanaugh said: "It seems to me that DOE is making a considered decision not to comply with a law passed by Congress." Kavanaugh appeared to be talking about DOE's cancellation of Yucca generally; he did not say which law DOE appeared to be breaking.

Speaking to a Department of Justice lawyer, Kavanaugh also indicated displeasure with administration decisions to begin shutting down DOE work on Yucca based on its own budget proposals axing Yucca funding rather than actual budgets approved by Congress.

"You dismantle government programs just because there has been a proposal to end...funding?" asked Kavanaugh.

That prompted Chief Judge David Sentelle to note that such de-funding proposals were "all over" Capitol Hill, suggesting they were rarely acted upon with such finality.

Judge Janice Rogers Brown also questioned why DOE has proceeded to begin closing down the Yucca project site in Nevada before the NRC has ruled on whether DOE was legally authorized to yank a license application for Yucca pending at the commission. The states, Aiken County and others have challenged the legality of DOE's actions in NRC administrative proceedings as well as in the courts.

"Why wouldn't they [DOE] want to see how the [NRC process] is resolved before dismantling" the Yucca project? Brown asked Justice Department Attorney Ellen Durkee, who was representing both DOE and NRC.

Apart from the merits of DOE's actions on Yucca, however, the judges to varying degrees indicated they were uncomfortable ruling on the legality of DOE's Yucca cancellation until the NRC had completed its Yucca proceedings as the "final agency action" that would free the court to act.

"Why shouldn't we wait for NRC to act?" Kavanaugh asked Andrew Fitz, assistant attorney general for Washington, who acted as lead counsel for the states and Aiken County.

Sentelle acknowledged, however, that Washington and

other Yucca backers were probably "frustrated" at NRC's slow action in reviewing the legality of DOE's license withdrawal.

NRC has said almost nothing publicly on those deliberations since last July, with Yucca backers in Congress and elsewhere increasingly frustrated that NRC's commissioners have not released their votes to decide the matter.

Yucca observers suspect the commission is split 2-2, with two Democrats supporting DOE's license withdrawal, Republican commissioners opposing the move and Democratic Commissioner George Apostolakis having recused himself.

In general, Yucca backers smell politics in the Obama administration's handling of Yucca, believing it fulfills a promise that President Obama made to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) when Obama was running for president and needed Reid's support. Reid strongly opposes the Yucca project as unsafe for his home state.

NRC's current chairman, Gregory Jaczko, is a former Reid science aide who was elevated to NRC's top position with considerable effort by Reid.

Many Yucca backers suspect Jaczko of working to undermine Yucca out of loyalty to Reid, with some suggesting that a prolonged commission inaction or deadlock serves Reid and other Yucca opponents well by forestalling court action and giving DOE more time to dismantle Yucca.

"There is a motion pending at NRC; it has been pending quite a while," Sentelle said Tuesday.

Do the complainants "never get remedy if NRC sits on the motion for 20 years?" the chief judge asked Durkee.

Durkee said Aiken County and the states are free to file a motion at the D.C. appeals court alleging unreasonable delay, while saying she did not think the delay thus far has been excessive.

Fitz told reporters Tuesday that his clients have not ruled out such a motion.

However, Fitz also argued Tuesday that the case is ripe for the court to decide now, as the relevant "final agency action" is not NRC's ongoing review of DOE's license withdrawal but a series of public actions by DOE in January 2009 announcing their plans to abandon Yucca--which he said amount to final agency action enabling the appeals court to rule.

DOE's yanking "the license application is one part of the decision...and the decision unquestionably had been made" before," Fitz told the court.

Fitz said the states believe the Obama administration is using the issue of agency finality as a "smokescreen" to cover their substantive moves to scuttle Yucca, and that the states find it "incredibly frustrating."

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**From:** Chang, Benjamin <ChangBE@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:08 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Out of Office AutoReply: NRC seeks media assistance

I am in Tokyo and checking my blackberry. (Note 13 hour time difference w/ D.C.) My number is 202-615-3433 for anything urgent. Thanks, Ben.

BV/1022

---

**From:** LaVera, Damien <Damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:02 PM  
**To:** Gibbons, William; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Ap reporter

Thanks guys.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gibbons, William  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:58 PM  
**To:** 'eliot.brenner@nrc.gov'; LaVera, Damien  
**Subject:** Ap reporter

Eliot,

Thanks again for reaching out to her tonight.

Per our conversation, she is asking about the Sandia report we spoke about this morning

202-641-9466  
[dcappiello@ap.org](mailto:dcappiello@ap.org)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:23 PM  
**To:** Casto, Chuck  
**Subject:** Re: Interview request for Chuck Casto

We are good to go. I would suggest thursday your time and start with 4 network interviews. I will send a note from home shortly. What is uyour cell # and do you know if usaid or embassy can help with a press minder/scheduler?

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Casto, Chuck  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 17:35:54 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Interview request for Chuck Casto

I think we could do a little interviewing sometime. You and I would have to establish TPs. We're in a good place with the pumping system arriving yesterday.

Let me know.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 14:17:49 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Interview request for Chuck Casto

Chairman wants the team focusing on the job at hand. If this is a documentary, there's nothing pressing and they can do the interview anywhere.

Chuck: let me know when you feel ready and I'll check with the chairman. I understand we had a hand in sketching out the initial design for the pumper that is being taken up to the plant area. That would be a good point for us to be talking about.

Eliot

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:06 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Casto, Chuck  
**Subject:** Interview request for Chuck Casto

Eliot and Chuck – there's a British documentary film company working for the Discovery Channel that is eager to interview Chuck regarding the NRC team's work in Japan. Their crew is in Tokyo for the next few days. I referred them to the US Embassy, but apparently that request has gone nowhere. Any chance our folks – especially Chuck - would be willing/able to be interviewed?

Thanks,  
Dave

---

**David McIntyre**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(b)(6) (mobile)  
***Protecting People & the Environment***

---

**From:** Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:22 PM  
**To:** Sharkey, Jeffry; Sosa, Belkys; Davis, Roger; Snodderly, Michael; Baggett, Steven; Reddick, Darani; Bubar, Patrice; Nieh, Ho  
**Cc:** Hart, Ken; Wright, Darlene; Joosten, Sandy; Lewis, Antoinette  
**Subject:** Chairman requested that COMGBJ-11-0002 NRC actions following the events in Japan be made public

The Subject COM will be made public in the morning.

---

**From:** Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:00 PM  
**To:** Jaczko, Gregory  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: COM  
**Attachments:** CmGBJ11-0002.docx  
  
**Importance:** High

Your COM will be posted to the web first thing in the morning. We will also make public in ADAMS. Eliot is informed.

---

**From:** Joosten, Sandy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:55 PM  
**To:** Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Subject:** FW: COM  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Joosten, Sandy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:47 PM  
**To:** WebWork Resource  
**Cc:** WebContractor Resource  
**Subject:** COM  
**Importance:** High

Attached for posting is COMGBJ-11-0002.

Release date: 3/23/11

Please post as soon as possible Wednesday morning 3/23/11.

Thanks,  
Sandy

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:43 PM  
**To:** Powell, Amy  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification re: CA plant tours

Thanks for the clarification. Don't think I'll refile over that distinction. What stunned me was the press release there was "new" evidence California is seismically active.

---

**From:** Powell, Amy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:39 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Clarification re: CA plant tours

Eliot -

Elmo, Sen. Feinstein, and Rep. Capps did the Diablo site visit. GEA, Elmo, Sen. Feinstein, and Sen. Boxer are on the SONGS site visit this afternoon (in fact I'm at the gate now).

Amy Powell  
Associate Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Phone: 301-415-1673

Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 17:17:31 2011  
**Subject:** Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution~~  
~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: JAPAN STUFF – Questions continue at headquarters on a raft of topics. Here are some of the other Japan event-related queries:

OCONEE – Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) toured the Oconee plant near Seneca, S.C. today along with about 20 media representatives. Region II OPA was at the plant site and observed but did not participate in the event. However, OPA did answer follow-up questions from the *State* (Columbia, S.C.) and the *Greenville* (S.C.) *News*. The CNN and Fox News crews are likely to produce segments from the visit for airing this evening and beyond..

INDIAN POINT – We provided information to CNN, NYPost, Platts, NHK, Bloomberg, WNYC radio, Channel 7 News (NY) and others about the outcome of this morning's meeting of NRR and RES with the NY Lt. Governor and his delegation about what the NRC would do with regard to seismic reviews of Indian Point NPP. We told them that we agreed to have state inspectors accompany us on seismic inspections, that NRC will share our data on seismic studies with NYS as soon as it is available, that we will give top priority to reviewing the Indian

Point data from the GL when we get it (likely sometime next year); and that the Chairman will visit the plant. New York authorities put out their take on the meeting.

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/032211nuclearplantseismicrisk>

**CALIFORNIA PLANTS** – California Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer (chairwoman of the NRC's Senate authorizing committee) and Diane Feinstein toured Diablo Canyon today with Commissioner Apostolakis and Region 4 Administrator Elmo Collins. They later put out a press release saying they were privy to new information that the west coast is a seismically active area ... and went on about things they would like done for plants out there.

**OYSTER CREEK** – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which is handling the appeal of our relicensing decision on Oyster Creek, has asked the NRC for more information on how the Japan reactor events might impact the renewal of the plant's license. The Sierra Club of New Jersey did a media blast advising reporters that the request was unprecedented. We are fielding questions from numerous outlets on this, including the Chicago Tribune, the Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, the Star-Ledger (of Newark, N.J.) and the New Jersey Spotlight news web site.

**CALLAWAY** – We spoke to reporter writing story about the plant for the St. Louis Post – Dispatch that covered topics ranging from emergency response, seismic design and overall ROP procedures and NRC inspections to ensure the safe operation of the plant.

**PRICE ANDERSON ACT** – We spoke to reporter from the Daily Journal and discussed all aspects of the PAA as it relates to the industry.

**FERMI** – OPA spoke to Slate magazine about how the NRC conducts inspections at plants. OPA explained how the NRC uses resident inspectors, regional and HQ staff to conduct inspections year round.

**MINNESOTA PLANTS** – Responded to an inquiry from Minneapolis Star Tribune regarding the safety of spent fuel pools and dry cask storage.

**DAVIS-BESSE** – Cleveland Plain Dealer asked for our input on some of the alarmist stories out there – seismic issues, spent fuel pool, Mark 1 containment, etc. The reporter said he didn't want to write an "end-of-the-world" story and was looking for a balanced view. Which we provided, of course. OPA also spoke to the Warren Tribune Chronicle about safety at the plants, NRC inspections, emergency requirements and the commitments Davis-Besse made to replace the reactor head in 2010. OPA explained the agency's safety mission and stressed that the plants are safe but if they were not safe the NRC would shut the plant down to protect the people, workers and environment.

**PEACH BOTTOM** – The Aegis, a bi-weekly newspaper in Harford County, Md., is reviewing key events and NRC reviews at the plant over the years in response to the Japan reactor events. We are pointing the reporters to the appropriate inspection reports and Annual Assessment letters, and answering related questions.

**BACKGROUND RADIATION** – Michigan Messenger had a questions about the origin of our figure of 610 mrem background dose for US citizens. We explained to the reporter that we don't do our own calculations but use the information from the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements

**PLANT FIRES** – Back from a six-month hiatus in bugging the NRC is a freelance reporter trying to peddle a story to Propublica.com about plant fire safety. He was told to submit his questions and get in line. In a related development, a website called publicintegrity.com approached a RES staffer asking about an individual who was involved in fire issues but was terminated several years ago. Should this "reporter" follow through, we have a list of requirements before we will talk about the former NRC employee.

And in other news .....

PILGRIM – The Patriot Ledger (of Quincy, Mass.) asked for additional information on an upcoming meeting between Entergy and NRC staff on quality control changes involving the company's fleet of nuclear power plants.

DUANE ARNOLD AND QUAD CITIES – OPA spoke to Des Moines Register about performance records at Duane Arnold and Quad city. Explained the difference between color findings and traditional enforcement and went over annual assessment letters.

FORT CALHOUN – We spoke with a reporter from the Des Moines Register about the performance of Fort Calhoun and Cooper nuclear plants. We described our Reactor Oversight Process and how it is used to assess nuclear power plant safety performance and described results from our most recent annual assessments, as well as providing the reporter with info about the upcoming end of cycle meeting for Fort Calhoun scheduled for April 6.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:39 PM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Subject:** draft blog  
**Attachments:** blogpostdraftmarch23.docx

Here's what we have right now. The techies are looking at a couple of questions I had.

eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

Draft Blog Post

(b)(5)

Eliot Brenner  
Public Affairs Director

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**From:** Chandrathil, Prema  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:35 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Mitlyng, Viktoria  
**Subject:** R3 TNT's

FERMI—OPA spoke to Slate magazine about how the NRC conducts inspections at plants. OPA explained how the NRC uses resident inspectors, regional and HQ staff to conduct inspections year round.

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---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:30 PM  
**To:** Frommer, Fred  
**Subject:** RE: KI

I have a KI expert looking at your questions.

-----Original Message-----

From: Frommer, Fred [mailto:FFrommer@ap.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:13 PM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Subject: KI

Hey Eliot-

Back on the nuclear beat temporarily for a story about potassium iodide.

I saw the helpful document posted on your website - <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/about-emerg-preparedness/potassium-iodide.html> - and had a few questions about KI distribution:

\_ Under current status of KI distribution, the NRC document says that 22 states have requested and/or received KI tablets. Is that figure up-to-date? Have all 22 that requested the tablets received them? And just wanted to confirm - 34 states are eligible, so 12 states have declined to ask for the tablets, correct? Do you have a list of those 12?

\_ Ten states are listed as having requested and/or received liquid KI. Is that information up-to-date, and have all 10 that requested this product received it? HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has said in a letter to Rep. Ed Markey last year that 11 states have requested the liquid KI.

Can you explain that discrepancy? And can you tell me when the liquid KI the states have is scheduled to expire, and whether there are any plans to replenish it? If there aren't any plans to replenish, can you tell me why?

\_ Finally, the chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council at the American Academy of Pediatrics told me he'd like the federal government to strengthen its oversight of state KI distribution plans to ensure that they get to needed populations, in particular through distribution at schools. Can you tell me what requirements the federal government has in place for state distribution plans, and is the NRC considering strengthening these?

Thanks,

Fred

Frederic J. Frommer  
Associated Press Writer  
202 641 9536 w

(b)(6) c  
[ffrommer@ap.org](mailto:ffrommer@ap.org)

Follow me on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ffrommer>

Bu/1030

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:15 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** blog post for tomorrow sometime; approved by PMT. OK?

### **Details Behind our March 16<sup>th</sup> Announcement**

We're getting follow-up questions from the public on how we reached the conclusions that prompted our March 16<sup>th</sup> press release recommending that U.S. residents within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate. I reached out to some of the technical folks to provide you with some additional information on the two sets of computer calculations used to support the NRC recommendations.

Here is what they say:

*Both assessments are hypothetical, stylized analyses of consequences of releases from the Fukushima nuclear power plant Units 2, 3 and 4.*

*The first assessment assumed release from one reactor unit, specifically Unit 2. It assumed an ex-vessel, unfiltered release from a totally failed containment, 100 percent fuel damage, and actual meteorological conditions during early morning hours. The low dispersion characteristics included low wind speeds, relatively stable air, and light precipitation.*

*The assessment considered the conditions of the plant at the time and possible degrading conditions. The assumptions included total failure, sprays off, no removal mechanism (e.g., scrubbing), no mitigation by the operator. A ground level release was assumed with release duration of 16 hours.*

*The second assessment represented multiple unit failures, in this case Units 2 and 3 and the spent fuel pool (SFP) of Unit 4. Specifically, it assumed 30 percent core damage at Units 2 and 3, and 100 percent fuel damage for the Unit 4 spent fuel pool. The Unit 4 spent fuel pool was assumed to include only a full core offload from the current outage. To account for the combined inventories of the three units sources (i.e., from Units 2 and 3 and Unit 4 spent fuel pool), the staff adjusted the reactor power level, fuel burn up and number of assemblies, and included that in one calculation. This resulted in 917 assemblies in the core.*

*The assumptions included total failure, sprays off, no removal mechanism (e.g., scrubbing), no mitigation by the operator. The meteorological conditions for the second assessment also assumed actual conditions with light precipitation, fairly stable wind conditions with occasional higher wind speeds and less stable atmospheric conditions, resulting in greater atmospheric dispersion. A ground level release was assumed with release duration of 15 hours.*

I hope this explanation is helpful.

Eliot Brenner  
Public Affairs Director

---

**From:** Leistikow, Dan <Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:01 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: heads up

Let me see if someone does. Thanks for passing it along.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:47 PM  
**To:** Leistikow, Dan  
**Subject:** heads up

(b)(5)

eliot

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Time-sensitive: Request from Scientific American

(b)(5),(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Davide Castelvechi [mailto:(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:56 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Time-sensitive: Request from Scientific American

Dear Mr. Burnell,

I am an editor at Scientific American and covering the meeting of the American Physical Society here in Dallas. I am writing an article a session that took place on nuclear power, and in particular about Ray Orbach's talk. He listed some recommendations for retrofitting existing nuclear power plants in the U.S. to make them safer in light of the Fukushima disaster. The retrofits he proposed are the following:

- 1) passive cooling or spent fuel storage pools (air-cooled heat exchangers)
- 2) Primary containment venting system that minimizes hydrogen combustion risk (design issues-distributive outlet, hardened vents; hydrogen mitigation in the secondary containment building)
- 3) in-vessel retention of corium (lava-like molten mixture of portions of a nuclear reactor, formed during meltdown)
- 4) Core catcher to mitigate ex-vessel core relocation, preventing corium-concrete interactions (heat-absorbing, non gas emitting sacrificial materials, external natural circulation-cooled)

I was wondering if you would be available to comment on these proposals and on whether other experts have proposed any similar set of recommendations either recently or in the past.

It would be ideal if we could talk on the phone some time this afternoon/evening. My cell phone is 646.283.6977. Alternatively, any comments you may want to make by email would also be very helpful.

Thank you very much, and best regards,

Davide

Davide Castelvechi  
Board of Editors  
Scientific American  
75 Varick Street  
New York, NY 10013

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:57 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** OPA Resource  
**Subject:** FW: 50-mile evacuation recommendation

---

**From:** Dolley, Steven [mailto:Steven\_Dolley@platts.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:56 PM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Cc:** OPA Resource  
**Subject:** RE: 50-mile evacuation recommendation

I'm hearing some criticism of the chairman's decision from last week from industry types. Did Chairman Jaczko consult with the other members of the commission before making this recommendation? Did he consult with the Japanese government and/or NISA, the Japanese nuclear regulator?

Thanks,  
Steve

Steven Dolley  
Managing Editor, Inside NRC  
Platts Nuclear  
202-383-2166 Office  
202-383-2187 Fax

---

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Bu/1033

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**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: EPZ Blog

No waiting. It's up

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** RE: EPZ Blog

And you are waiting on what?

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:23 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** EPZ Blog

Post is approved by PMT and Neil and I discussed and took out the question about FEMA and now we don't feel it needs to be looked at by FEMA. All my usual helpers are not in the office, so it would be considerable delay IMHO.

---

**From:** Corbett, James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Doane, Margaret; Brenner, Eliot; Joosten, Sandy; Leeds, Eric; Sheron, Brian; Wiggins, Jim  
**Cc:** Ash, Darren; Weber, Michael; Virgilio, Martin; Rothschild, Trip; Janney, Margie; Nichols, Russell; Sealing, Donna; Boyce, Thomas (OIS); Schaeffer, James  
**Subject:** FOIA Requests for Japan Crisis Related Material

I have heard concerns from you and/or your staff about responding to the recent FOIA requests for material related to the very crisis to which we are in the midst of addressing. I am currently acting for Joe Holonich while he works with the TABS project. In this role, I have discussed the situation with my staff and wanted to ease your concerns.

The recent FOIA requests met the criteria for and were granted expedited processing. Expedited processing means that these FOIA requests should be processed ahead of other non-expedited FOIA requests and that they must be processed "as soon as practicable." It does not mean that resources should be pulled from other mission critical activities and placed on processing these requests. Your existing FOIA coordinators and staff should apply reasonable efforts to complete these requests considering the constraints of the current situation.

The requester has been contacted and is not willing to narrow the scope or breadth of these requests. We have alerted the requester that our response may be delayed due to the efforts necessary to respond to the event itself.

It is important to keep in mind that records for the three expedited requests cover only the time period of March 11 through March 16 (the date the NRC received the request).

We are drafting a notification for our web site and acknowledgement letter to alert requestors of the likelihood of longer than usual response times from the Agency.

As with any FOIA request, my staff is available to answer any questions and provide guidance. We will be working with your coordinators to determine if partial releases are possible and to look at ways to streamline the collection of material (e.g., special mailboxes or folders in Outlook).

We are committed to working closely with you. If you have any additional concerns, please contact me.

James Corbett, Acting Director  
Information and Records Services Division  
Office of Information Services  
Room: O6-H23 - MailStop: O6-H16M  
Phone: 301-415-7545

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:44 PM  
**To:** Leistikow, Dan  
**Subject:** heads up on something

Saturday Pete Lyons was over here at the NRC for an NRC government-industry meeting on ways to help Japan. AT that meeting we pressed the industry to bring in INPO (Institute for Nuclear Power Operations in Atlanta) to be more of an industry focal point. I confirmed the meeting and participants on background to Steve Power of the WSJ today. They had the fact it happened and some of the participants. I'm shooting you over this note so you and Pete are not surprised by the journal.

My main message point, on background, was that we were encouraging INPO to work in a somewhat clearinghouse fashion.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

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**From:** Farrington, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:29 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Salley, MarkHenry  
**Subject:** RE: fire issues at nuclear plants

(b)(5)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:16 PM  
**To:** Salley, MarkHenry; Farrington, John  
**Subject:** RE: fire issues at nuclear plants

Absolutely OK.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Salley, MarkHenry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:52 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Farrington, John  
**Subject:** RE: fire issues at nuclear plants

(b)(5)

Is that OK?

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:49 PM  
**To:** Salley, MarkHenry; Farrington, John  
**Subject:** FW: fire issues at nuclear plants

(b)(5)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:48 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** fire issues at nuclear plants

Mr. Sullivan: please provide a list of your questions to the following address: [opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov)

They will be addressed, as time permits, with all the other requests we have. As you might suspect, 12 days into this you can imagine the line for information requests is long.

Eliot Brenner

BU/1037

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:15 PM  
**To:** Mueller, Stephanie; Leistikow, Dan; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Podmaniczky, Katinka  
**Subject:** RE: Another request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

(b)(5)

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**From:** Mueller, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:12 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Leistikow, Dan; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Podmaniczky, Katinka  
**Subject:** Another request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

We've gotten a similar request from Reuters today – David, are you in touch with that reporter as well? Here's his contact:

Scott Disavino

Phone: 1 646 223 6072

Mobile: (b)(6)

Email - [scott.disavino@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:scott.disavino@thomsonreuters.com)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David [mailto:David.McIntyre@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:30 PM  
**To:** Leistikow, Dan; Mueller, Stephanie; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Podmaniczky, Katinka  
**Subject:** RE: AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

I think the question being ginned up now is: Should the SNF be moved to dry cask sooner than later, in order to reduce the threat of spent fuel pool fires. This has come up before the NRC before, and we've said since the fuel is equally safe in pool or cask we are agnostic on when it should be transferred; that leaves the decision up to the licensee as an economic/operational issue. (Balancing need for space vs cost of casks/risk of exposure etc during transfer.) We are seeing all the spent fuel pool fears from post-9/11 being dragged out again, and understandably so, I guess.

The repository question did come up in the congressional hearing last Wednesday, of course, which is a factor of "get it out of here altogether."

---

David McIntyre  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
(301) 415-8206 (direct)  
(202) 657-7096 (mobile)

Bu/1038

---

**From:** Leistikow, Dan [mailto:Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:26 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David; Mueller, Stephanie; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Podmaniczky, Katinka  
**Subject:** Re: AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

One thing that is important in this discussion is that people understand that rods in storage pools has absolutely nothing to do with yucca mountain or having a repository. The rods need to be in on-site storage pools (for years?) before they can be moved anywhere -- whether to dry cask or a repository or whatever.

---

**From:** McIntyre, David <David.McIntyre@nrc.gov>  
**To:** Mueller, Stephanie; Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**Cc:** Leistikow, Dan; Podmaniczky, Katinka  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 12:21:47 2011  
**Subject:** RE: AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

Ah yes, I've dealt with him daily and have a call-back for him today! I'll send him the link.

Dave

---

**From:** Mueller, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:21 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Leistikow, Dan; Podmaniczky, Katinka; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

Great, thanks much. His name is Ray Henry and here is his contact:

Ray Henry | The Associated Press | Office: 404-522-8971 | Cell:  
(b)(6) | [rhenry@ap.org](mailto:rhenry@ap.org)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:19 PM  
**To:** Mueller, Stephanie  
**Cc:** Leistikow, Dan; Podmaniczky, Katinka; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** RE: AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors

Stephanie: my guy who would have access to the most recent information is david mcintyre, who is copied on this note.

Let us have the name of the AP reporter and we will follow through.

Eliot

---

**From:** Mueller, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:16 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Leistikow, Dan; Podmaniczky, Katinka

**Subject:** AP request on spent fuel at US nuclear reactors  
**Importance:** High

Eliot,

We wanted to get in touch because there's some confusion about the best source of information on the amount of spent fuel that is at US reactors, both in wet and dry storage. When the AP contacted us, we referred the reporter to EIA, but the most recent data they have is from 2002. We've since spoken with the EIA, and they said that NRC has this, but the reporter has told us that the NRC referred him back to us.

Can you help with this? Our concern is the reporter is starting to feel as though the USG doesn't know who is tracking this.

Thanks,

Stephanie

Stephanie Mueller  
Press Secretary  
Office of Public Affairs  
US Department of Energy  
202-586-4940

---

**From:** LaVera, Damien <Damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Flag

FYI... it relates to this report.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6906/cr6906.pdf>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:08 PM  
**To:** Leistikow, Dan  
**Cc:** LaVera, Damien  
**Subject:** RE: Flag

Thanks. will call momentarily.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Leistikow, Dan [mailto:Dan.Lestikow@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** LaVera, Damien  
**Subject:** Flag  
**Importance:** High

Eliot -- Damien LaVera, PA director for the National Nuclear Security Administration at DOE, has something we need to flag for you asap ... I've copied him and suggested he reach out directly. His # is 586 8490.

BU/1039

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:25 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** RE: bios for travelers

Keep them handy in case we end up doing interviews.

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:12 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: bios for travelers

Any reason that we would want these bios?

---

**From:** LIA03 Hoc  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:01 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; Mamish, Nader  
**Subject:** bios for travelers

To whom do we send the bios for Japan travelers? We have bios for everyone in the second wave of travelers, except Alan Blamey (already in flight) and Jack Ramsey.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:25 PM  
**To:** Garcia, Gina  
**Subject:** RE: CBS News hello

Gina: we're not doing anything today because of his schedule. No need to apologize, I know the pressure everyone is under to cough up a guest. Please do keep checking.

eliot

---

**From:** Garcia, Gina [mailto:GarciaG@cbsnews.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:09 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** CBS News hello

Hi Eliot,

Gina from CBS News here again just checking to see if you all are making Chairman Jaczko available tomorrow or anytime this week.

Full disclosure, know that my bosses are repeatedly calling me and wanting to check with you multiple times daily to be sure that you all don't change your mind about making the Chairman available. They are really interested in having him on and I tell them that he's not doing anything at this time.

I'd like to check in with you ever so often and apologize in advance for the calls I make to you until we stop covering the story of Japan.

At this time do you plan to make the Chairman available tomorrow or this week please?

Thank you,  
Gina

Gina Garcia | CBS News *The Early Show* | direct: 202-457-4408 | cell: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:11 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; McIntyre, David; Couret, Ivonne; Janbergs, Holly; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Uselding, Lara  
**Subject:** Q&A on resolved BWR Mark I containment issues  
**Importance:** High

All;

This language is approved by the Division of Safety Systems folks in NRR. I'll send an update when we have specific resolution dates for the torus reinforcement issue.

Scott

**Why hasn't the NRC fixed the well-known problems with the BWR Mark I containments?**

The NRC required several changes to the BWR Mark I containments at U.S. plants in the 1980s and 1990s to ensure the plants could continue to deal with severe events.

The first issue involved the design's large circular tube, or "torus," which holds enough water to safely condense the large volumes of steam that could be released during a severe event. The NRC became aware in the mid-late 1970s that designers might have underestimated the forces the torus would have to withstand during an event. The NRC laid out an appropriate generic approach to resolving the issue in August 1982, and individual reactors carried out their plant-specific torus reinforcement efforts from [dates to come, but all fixed at least 15 years ago]

The second issue involved the potential for containment failure following an extended loss of decay heat removal capability. Under the Mark I Containment Performance Improvement program that ran from the late 1980s into the early 1990s, all Mark I BWRs operating at that time installed hardened vent systems to provide an additional decay heat removal capability to protect against containment overpressure failure. The containment vent system could also be used to control hydrogen concentrations in containment. Two units, Browns Ferry 1 and 3, were in extended shutdown at that time, and hardened vents were installed before those reactors restarted. In addition most plants provided an alternate water injection capability that is independent of normal and emergency power supplies and enhanced the reliability of the automatic depressurization system to reduce the likelihood of a challenge to containment.

Furthermore, in 2003, the Commission issued the "Hydrogen Rule" (10CFR50.44) that required all BWR Mark I plants to operate in an inert atmosphere to preclude the possibility of a hydrogen explosions in containment.

---

**From:** Xie, Yanmei <yanmei\_xie@platts.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:12 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Could you help me find answers?  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Yikes! I didn't realize it would take so much research for you guys. Sorry...I can extend the deadline to noon tomorrow, which is the time my editor finalizes all copies before sending them to production.

**Yanmei Xie**

Associate Editor

Platts Nuclear Publications

Office: (202) 383-2161

Mobile: (b)(6)

www.platts.com

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:10 AM  
**To:** Xie, Yanmei; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Could you help me find answers?

Hi Yanmei;

Going back 40 years into the archives will be interesting. I'll see what the staff can find by 5.

Scott

---

**From:** Xie, Yanmei [mailto:yanmei\_xie@platts.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:57 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Could you help me find answers?

And my deadline is 5pm today.

**Yanmei Xie**

Associate Editor

Platts Nuclear Publications

Office: (202) 383-2161

Bu/1043

Mobile: (b)(6)

www.platts.com

---

**From:** Xie, Yanmei  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:56 AM  
**To:** 'Brenner, Eliot'; 'Burnell, Scott'  
**Subject:** Could you help me find answers?

Hi, Eliot and Scott,

I hope you guys were able to catch some much needed rest during the weekend. I feel a little ashamed to say that my weekend was actually quite relaxing, while two of my colleagues were on duty.

The Union of Concerned Scientists said "A little-known test performed decades ago at the Brunswick" could explain the hydrogen explosions at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant. See the UCS analysis below. Could you help me get answers to the following questions?

1. Did the test actually happen? If so,
2. Why was the test performed and when was it performed?
3. Did the UCS analysis below accurately reflect the test and the test result?
4. Did Brunswick report the test results to NRC or the industry? If so,
5. Did either the NRC or industry require or suggest any modifications to mitigate the risk?
6. Did Brunswick take measures to mitigate the risk?

Your help is greatly appreciated!

## Possible Cause of Reactor Building Explosions

| [by Dave Lochbaum](#) | [nuclear power](#) | [nuclear power safety](#) | [Japan nuclear](#) |

Dramatic videos show the explosions that severely damaged the reactor buildings at first Unit 1 and then Unit 3 at the stricken Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant in Japan. The explosions are attributed to the ignition of hydrogen gas that collected within the reactor buildings. This was early in the crisis, and before the spent fuel pools are thought to have lost water and started producing hydrogen.

The hydrogen was likely produced by damaged fuel rods in the reactor core. To reduce pressure in the reactor vessel, some of that hydrogen was released from the vessel into the primary containment structure of the reactor.

A key, unsolved riddle is how a significant amount of hydrogen escaped from the primary containment into the reactor building, and how this low-probability event would have happened in multiple reactors.

### How Hydrogen Got into Primary Containment

Figure 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a boiling water reactor with a Mark I containment like that at Fukushima Dai-Ichi. The reactor core is housed within a metal reactor vessel. The reactor vessel is enclosed

within the primary containment structure. The reactor building completely surrounds the containment structure. The reactor building walls are made of 18 to 30 inch-thick concrete up to the elevation of the refueling platform. The walls are made of metal from that elevation to the roof.

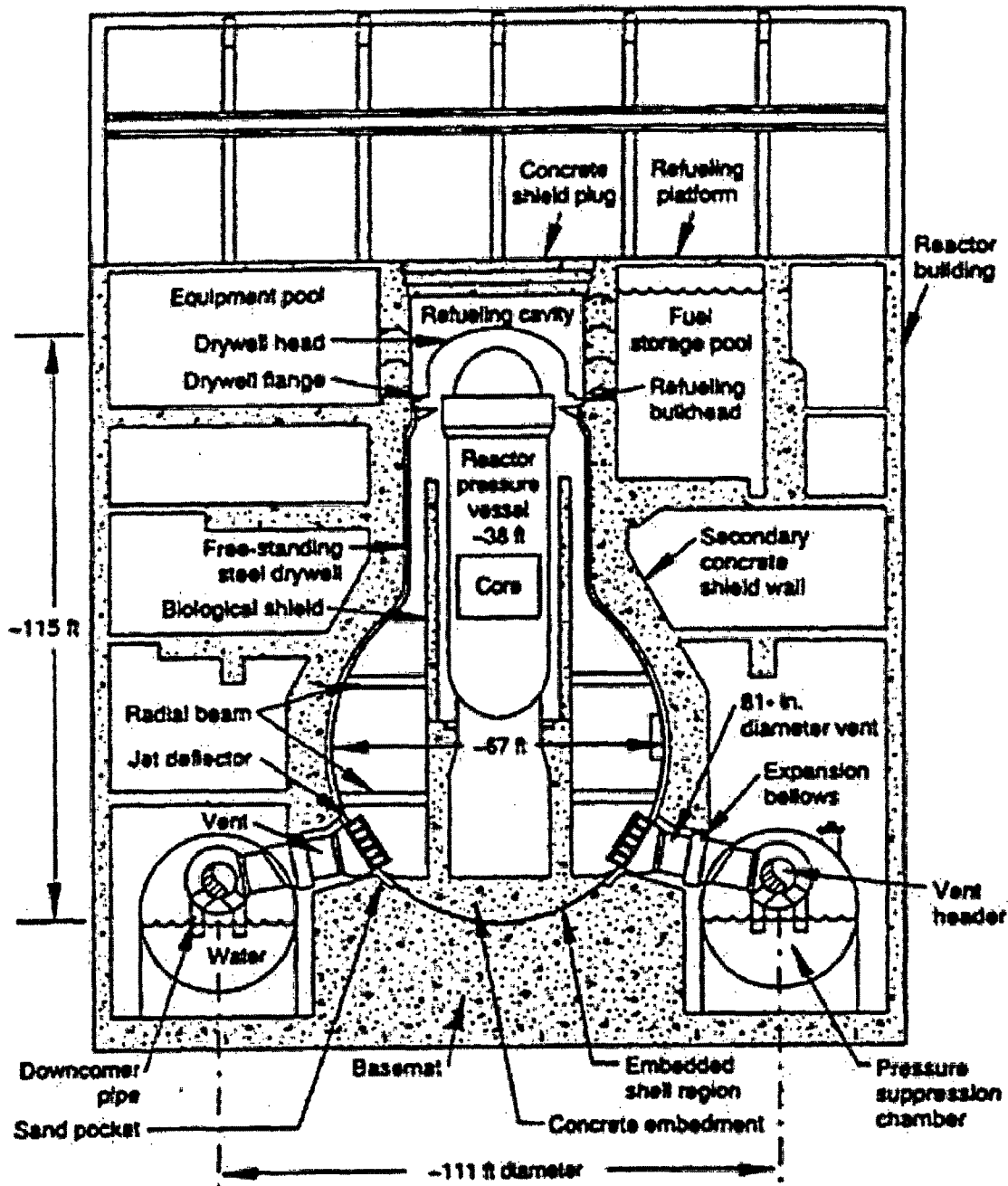


Figure 1

The hydrogen gas most likely came from a chemical reaction between water and the metal cladding of fuel rods in the reactor cores when the water level inside the reactor vessels dropped low enough to expose at least the upper core regions. The hydrogen gas initially collected in the reactor vessel.

To cool the fuel in the reactor, workers attempted to pump seawater into the reactor vessel. As pressure inside the reactor vessel increased, it kept water from flowing into the reactor. Periodically, workers opened valves to

vent steam and gas from the reactor vessel to into the pressure suppression chamber (also called the torus). The gas, including hydrogen, collected in the torus and periodically equalized with the air space in the drywell.

When pressure in the primary containment (the combination of the drywell and the torus) rose too high, workers vented the containment to the atmosphere. This vent piping passed through the reactor building, but discharged well outside of it, and should not have led to a hydrogen buildup inside the building.

### **How Hydrogen May Have Gotten from Primary Containment into the Reactor Building**

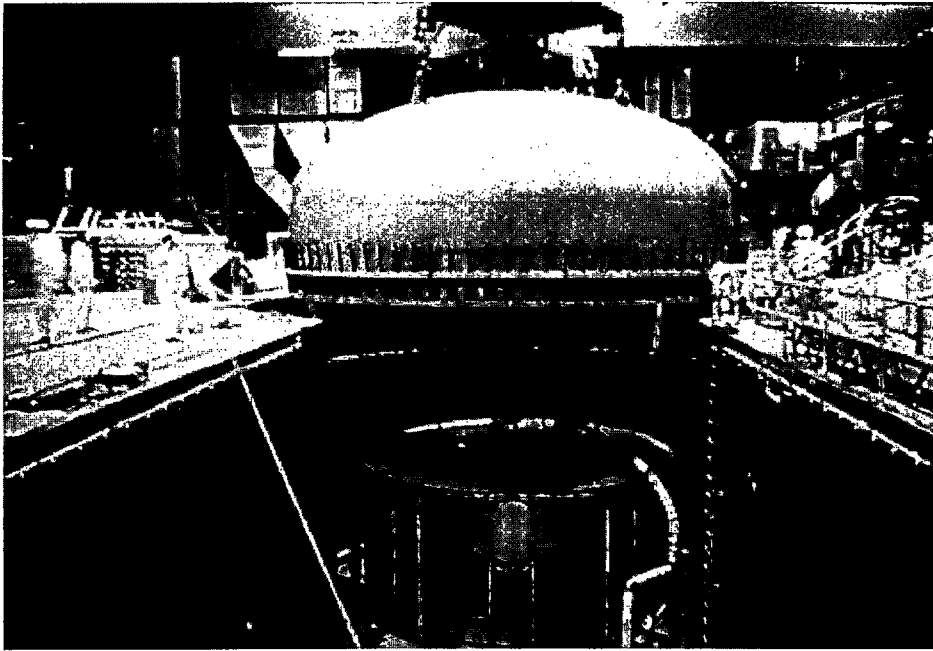
The destruction of the Unit 1 and 3 reactor buildings appears to have been caused by hydrogen explosions. As noted above, an unanswered question is how the hydrogen got into the reactor buildings. A little-known test performed decades ago at the Brunswick nuclear plant in North Carolina may hold the key to answering that question.

To satisfy a requirement in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) code for prototype containment designs, workers performed a structural integrity test on the reactor at Brunswick in the 1970s.

The primary containment structure at Brunswick was designed to withstand an internal pressure of 62 pounds per square inch (psi). The ASME code required it to be tested at 71 psi. This test involved pumping air into the containment structure until the pressure rose to 71 psi. The pumps would then be turned off and the pressure would be monitored for several hours to verify that it remained fairly constant, indicating that the primary containment was intact and not leaking. During this time, workers would record data from strain gauges and other instrumentation to verify that structural loads were properly distributed.

But as workers increased the containment pressure they encountered a problem. The pressure stopped increasing and remained constant at 70 psi. The pumps continued to push air into the containment, but its pressure just stopped increasing. This unexpected plateau started a hunt for air leaking from the containment somewhere.

A hissing sound attracted workers to the top of the containment structure. They identified air leaking through the drywell flange area (see Figure 1). The metal drywell head (see Figure 2) is bolted to the metal drywell with a rubber O-ring between the surfaces to provide a good seal fit.



*Figure 2*

Workers found that the containment pressure of 70 psi pushing upward against the inner dome of the drywell head lifted it off the drywell flange enough to provide a pathway for air to leak from the containment. That air leaked into the area labeled refueling cavity in Figure 1. The refueling cavity is located outside the primary containment but inside the reactor building.

At Brunswick, workers tightened the drywell head bolts beyond the amount specified in the reactor plans in order to reduce the leak rate and continue the test. While workers conducted pressure tests at all nuclear reactors prior to initial startup and periodically thereafter, these tests were performed at or below the containment design-pressure of 62 psi. So none of them reached the pressure that caused the leak around the drywell head.

In other words, had Brunswick not featured a prototype containment design, its initial and recurring pressure tests would have been conducted at 62 psi, not 71 psi. Leaking from the drywell head was not observed until the containment pressure rose to 70 psi.

How does this Brunswick containment testing experience relate to the reactor building explosions experienced at Fukushima Dai-Ichi Units 1 and 3?

Like Brunswick, the containment design at those reactors features a drywell head bolted onto the lower portion of the drywell. Workers at these reactors faced significant problems cooling the reactor cores. The combined effects of the earthquake and tsunami left the reactors without ac electrical power. The only dc-powered (i.e., battery-powered) backup system was lost when the batteries were exhausted. Workers turned to their only remaining option: injecting sea water into the reactor vessels to cool the reactor cores.

The pumps used to pump seawater into the vessel operated at low pressure. When seawater entered the reactor vessel, it was heated by the hot reactor core to the point of boiling. Steam produced by the boiling increased the pressure inside the reactor vessel. To prevent this rising pressure from hindering seawater from being pumped into reactor, workers periodically vented the reactor vessel. This carried steam and gas, including hydrogen, into the primary containment. This flow in turn increased the pressure inside containment. When containment pressure rose too high, workers vented the containment to the atmosphere.

The workers properly sought to minimize the amount of gas they vented from containment to the atmosphere to lessen the amount of radiation released. They did this by allowing the containment pressure to rise as high as tolerable between ventings.

It is possible that the containment pressures rose high enough to replicate the Brunswick experience by lifting the drywell head enough to allow hydrogen and other gases to leak into the refueling cavity and reactor building. If so, hydrogen could build up to an explosive mixture.

This tragedy will be closely examined for its causes. That scrutiny must determine how hydrogen got into the reactor building early in the crisis. The drywell head pathway may be that answer.

Answering this question is critical to prevent hydrogen explosions at the other reactors at Fukushima.

If this mechanism is the cause of the leak, it could be averted easily and effectively simply by changing the venting procedures so that workers vent the containment pressure to the atmosphere more frequently and do not let it build up to such high level. Taking such action might moderately increase the amount of radioactive gases vented into the atmosphere, but could eliminate a source of hydrogen inside the reactor buildings that could cause another explosion.

Authorities should launch an investigation to pinpoint the source of the hydrogen leak to eliminate this risk in the future. But in the meantime, since the Brunswick test showed that this containment is vulnerable to high-pressure leaking, Tokyo Electric Power Co. can and should take immediate steps to avoid creating such a leak by changing its procedures to vent the containment before it builds up to such high pressure (70 psi).

**Yanmei Xie**

Associate Editor

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:02 AM  
**To:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** Re: Media - Discovery Chanel - Interview

Tell them no for the time being.  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Couret, Ivonne  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:53:44 2011  
**Subject:** Media - Discovery Chanel - Interview

Did you speak with this gentleman? Ivonne

**Ivonne L. Couret**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Public Affairs  
Media Desk  
[opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov)  
301-415-8200

Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

---

**From:** Royer, Deanna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:46 AM  
**To:** Janbergs, Holly  
**Subject:** Media - Discovery Chanel - Interview

Tristan Goodley  
Discovery Chanel  
[Tristan.goodley@darlowsmithson.com](mailto:Tristan.goodley@darlowsmithson.com)  
+442082224392

Re: He spoke to Joseph Anderson about contacting the NRC experts in Japan for an interview

BU/1044

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:01 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Temporary Reemployment

Thanks to both of you. I thought this stuff would already in your hands.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:53:29 2011  
**Subject:** Temporary Reemployment

A woman called me this morning from Personnel to say they would be emailing me sometime today the forms I should print out, fill out, and return by FedEx ASAP. She also said they would mail to me today by FedEx some fingerprint cards to have the police prepare for me, instructions as to what drug test facility I should visit ASAP for testing and a FedEx number to enable sending them back. This may take two or three days, so I do not expect to report to the office this coming Monday. Perhaps a week later?

They had my email address wrong, but we straightened that out. If it is wrong in your office, you may want to have someone check to see that you have [REDACTED] (b)(6)

She said I would be reporting to and working for you but would be badged by RII.

It appears things at Fukushima may be stabilizing somewhat, but I don't see any good or positive information coming from there. It will be my privilege to assist your staff with what corporate knowledge and ability I have and look forward to being with you all again during a difficult time.

Ken

BU/1045

---

**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:46 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Batkin, Joshua  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Will do

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:46 AM  
**To:** Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua  
**Cc:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Please stay in touch with scott I am out of the building.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Loyd, Susan  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:44:09 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Ok. The press release is close to ready.

Susan K. Loyd  
Communications Director  
Office of the Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Tele: 301-415-1838  
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

---

**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:08 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan  
**Subject:** Re: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

(b)(5)

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**To:** Baval, Rochelle; Batkin, Joshua; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Coggins, Angela; Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:03:02 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

(b)(5)

Eliot

---

**From:** Baval, Rochelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:02 AM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Coggins, Angela; Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Josh,

I thought OPA was working on that. Beth had stopped by yesterday afternoon to ask about which meetings to post. I can also send you a list if you'd like.

*Rochelle*

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**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:00 AM  
**To:** Baval, Rochelle; Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Cc:** Coggins, Angela  
**Subject:** Re: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Hey, do we have the new list of meetings ready to post today?

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

---

**From:** Baval, Rochelle  
**To:** Bubar, Patrice; Vietti-Cook, Annette; Bates, Andrew; Burns, Stephen; Muessle, Mary; Andersen, James; Landau, Mindy; Doane, Margaret; Mamish, Nader; Henderson, Karen; Dyer, Jim; Brown, Milton; Poole, Brooke  
**Cc:** Laufer, Richard; Hart, Ken; Shea, Pamela; Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Sharkey, Jeffry; Sosa, Belkys; Nieh, Ho  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 09:38:18 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Yes, the regular monthly agenda planning session is still planned for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Due to the changes to the agenda based on yesterday's agenda planning session, including adding the status meetings on Japan and the quick look meetings, we don't expect to be able to provide the agenda planning package for the March 31<sup>st</sup> session by this Thursday. The staff and SECY are working to provide it as soon as possible, hopefully on Friday or Monday at the latest.

*Rochelle*

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**From:** Bubar, Patrice  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:31 AM  
**To:** Baval, Rochelle; Vietti-Cook, Annette; Bates, Andrew; Burns, Stephen; Muessle, Mary; Andersen, James; Landau, Mindy; Doane, Margaret; Mamish, Nader; Henderson, Karen; Dyer, Jim; Brown, Milton; Poole, Brooke  
**Cc:** Laufer, Richard; Hart, Ken; Shea, Pamela; Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Sharkey, Jeffry; Sosa, Belkys; Nieh, Ho  
**Subject:** RE: Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Rochelle – thank you.

I believe that an agenda planning meeting was still planned for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Is that accurate?

Patty Bubar  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Commissioner William D. Magwood  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1895

---

**From:** Baval, Rochelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:03 AM  
**To:** Vietti-Cook, Annette; Bates, Andrew; Burns, Stephen; Muessle, Mary; Andersen, James; Landau, Mindy; Doane, Margaret; Mamish, Nader; Henderson, Karen; Dyer, Jim; Brown, Milton; Poole, Brooke  
**Cc:** Laufer, Richard; Hart, Ken; Shea, Pamela; Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Sharkey, Jeffry; Sosa, Belkys; Bubar, Patrice; Nieh, Ho; Baval, Rochelle  
**Subject:** Summary/Follow-up to Agenda Planning meeting on 3/21/11

Following is a summary/follow-up to Yesterday's (3/21) agenda planning session.

Papers:

- OGC paper on revisions to the Internal Commission Procedures for mandatory hearings will come up as an information paper instead of a notation vote paper.

Scheduled Meetings:

- March 24 – 50.46a ECCS Rule – The Commission agreed to postpone this meeting.
- March 29 – Small Modular Reactors – The Commission agreed to keep this meeting on the schedule.
- March 31 – McGaffigan Award - The Commission agreed to keep this meeting on the schedule.
- March 31 – Closed Adjudicatory Meeting (general discussion of pending license renewals and combined license applications) – The Commission agreed to have this meeting. \*\*\*  
**ACTION: OGC/OCAA will prepare a paper, and SECY will work with OGC/OCAA to develop the scheduling note.**
- April 14 – Status of Events in Japan, with a focus on radiological consequence/health effects – The Commission agreed to have this meeting. \*\*\***ACTION: SECY will work with the staff to develop the scheduling note.**
- April 19 – Source Security/Part 37 - The Commission agreed to keep this meeting on the schedule.

- April 28 – The Commission agreed to postpone the meeting on ITAAC and instead have a meeting on the Status of Events in Japan, with a focus on station black out. \*\*\* **ACTION: SECY will work with the staff to develop the scheduling note.**
- May 3 – The Commission agreed to move the Human Capital and EEO briefing to June 2<sup>nd</sup> and instead have a meeting on the 30 day quick look status from the task group on NRC's review of the events in Japan. \*\*\* **ACTION: SECY will work with the staff to develop the scheduling note. Staff should try to brief the ACRS on this 30 day quick look prior to the June 6<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting with the ACRS.**
- May 12 – The Commission agreed to postpone the meeting on Cumulative Effects of Reactor Regulation and instead move the meeting on Emergency Preparedness, from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting would be more broad than just on the EP final rule, and would be an informational meeting on how we do EP and the evolution to the final rule. \*\*\* **ACTION: SECY will work with the staff to review and consider whether revisions to the scheduling note are necessary.**
- May 27 – AARM - The Commission agreed to keep this meeting on the schedule.
- June 2 – The Commission agreed to move the meeting on EP to May 12<sup>th</sup> and have the Human Capital and EEO briefing on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- June 6 – ACRS - The Commission agreed to keep this meeting on the schedule. Inclusion of topics due to the events in Japan to be considered.
- June 16 – The Commission agreed to postpone the public and non-sunshine act meetings on international activities and instead have a meeting on the 60 day quick look status from the task group on NRC's review of the events in Japan. \*\*\* **ACTION: SECY will work with the staff to develop the scheduling note.**

The next agenda planning is on March 31, 2011.

Thank you,  
*Rochelle*

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:32 AM  
**To:** Rader, Robert  
**Subject:** Re: Third Circuit Order

Suggest you check the press releases and fact sheets and blogs we have posted since this started.

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Rader, Robert  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 22 10:29:42 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Third Circuit Order

Thanks for your prompt answer, Eliot. I understand items 1 and 3, but could you explain item 2? I did see the Chairman's proposed directive for short- and long-term evaluation of the events, which he asked SECY to track. Also, I wonder if NRC has issued any other public blurbs about its confidence in US reactors? Thanks, Eliot.

Bob Rader  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
Division of Legal Counsel  
Mailstop O-15 D21  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Office: 301-415-1955  
Fax: 301-415-3200

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:23 AM  
**To:** Rader, Robert  
**Cc:** Cordes, John  
**Subject:** RE: Third Circuit Order

1: the chairman;s remarks are on the main NRC webpage. The link goes straight to a PDF without a link.

2: there is the SECY transcript which hopefully should be available today. You will need to bug them because they don't have any arrangement with the transcription service for rush jobs..

3: here is a link to his C-SPAN appearance on Sunday, 3-20. It also has a link to a webcast of the meeting yesterday as well.

<http://cspan.org/Events/Nuclear-Regulators-to-Enhance-US-Safety-Protocols/10737420398-1/>

Bu/1047

Eliot

---

**From:** Rader, Robert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:16 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Cordes, John  
**Subject:** Third Circuit Order

Eliot,

You've seen the email from John Cordes on the Third Circuit's order. I could use your help.

As you know, the Chairman has already been asked about how the events in Japan would be applied in the context of license renewal decisions (e.g. televised question and answer at 8:30 AM yesterday in the context of issuing the VY renewed license). He has stated that the lessons learned and impact associated from Japan's natural disaster is a safety matter for current operations and should not wait on whether or not a license is renewed.

It would be very helpful to me if you could forward copies of the Chairman's statements on Japan and those of other Commissioners as well as those of the EDO. Don't worry about sorting it out – just send whatever you have. Electronic versions with electronic references would be best if you have them. Any questions, please call. Thanks, Eliot.

Bob Rader  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
Division of Legal Counsel  
Mailstop O-15 D21  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Office: 301-415-1955  
Fax: 301-415-3200

---

**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:31 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: press release

Rochelle confirms the dates we currently have in the release – the website calendar gets updated in sync with the Sunshine Act FRNs.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:17 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: press release

(b)(5)

Thanks.

eliot

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**From:** Burnell, Scott  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:15 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: press release

(b)(5)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:12 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** press release

(b)(5)

eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

BU/1048

Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** SIMON LOMAX, BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: <slomax@bloomberg.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:15 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: Commission's order on 90-day review

Thanks Scott. I appreciate the help.

---

Sent From Bloomberg Mobile MSG

----- Original Message -----

From: Scott Burnell <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov>  
At: 3/22/2011 10:07

Hi Simon;

We'll get you what we can as soon as we can. Stay tuned and thank you for your patience.

Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: SIMON LOMAX, BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: [mailto:slomax@bloomberg.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:06 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Cc: Burnell, Scott  
Subject: Commission's order on 90-day review

Hi Eliot (cc Scott)

Hope you're getting over that cold, or at the very least found some powerful medication to numb the pain. Can you send me a copy of the 90-day order with the vote count as soon as it's done? I'm on the list serve but I see that it doesn't send emails to all subscribers at the same time. I got beat by the competition on friday and want to avoid it happening again.

In other news, I should be staking out the Indian Point meeting shortly, presuming the red line cooperates.

Cheers,  
Simon.

---

Sent From Bloomberg Mobile MSG

BU/1049

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:04 AM  
**To:** Batkin, Joshua; Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** press release

(b)(5)

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

Bu/1050

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**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:01 AM  
**To:** Tracy, Tennille; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Morning. Two quick questions ...

Hi Tennille – There was nothing issued last night; the Commissioners are still working the issue and we hope to have something today.

Dave

---

**From:** Tracy, Tennille [mailto:Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:47 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** Morning. Two quick questions ...

Can you tell me the status of the vote on the nuclear reviews? Did we get something last night?

Also, are we expecting any statements/appearances on nuclear stuff today?

Thanks,

**Tennille Tracy**

**Dow Jones Newswires | Wall Street Journal**

Office: 202.862.6619 | Cell: (b)(6)

1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington D.C., 20036

BU/1051

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:59 AM  
**To:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters interview request: Chairman Jaczko profile

Talk to the guys in the white house press office, nick Shapiro or Robert clark. There are a number of people cited in a bloomberg profile, try reid or markey for whom he worked.

eliot

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:45 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters interview request: Chairman Jaczko profile

Thanks for your quick response. I suspected that might have been the case.  
Well, we would love to interview him sometime about the issues, when his schedule allows – please consider this a standing request.  
For the profile, is there anyone that you or the Chairman could recommend to speak with – any long-time friends, colleagues or associates?  
Bests / Roberta

---

**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

Reuters

Phone: 202 898 8376  
Mobile: (b)(6)  
[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:39 AM  
**To:** Rampton, Roberta (M Edit Ops)  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters interview request: Chairman Jaczko profile

The chairman has had several requests for profile interviews and he has declined all of them. He would like his record as a commissioner and chairman to speak for itself.

Eliot

---

**From:** roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:37 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** ayesha.rascoe@thomsonreuters.com; timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com  
**Subject:** Reuters interview request: Chairman Jaczko profile

Bu/1052

Hello Eliot:

My name is Roberta Rampton and I'm part of a team at Reuters covering energy policy in Washington. We are contributing to Reuters' larger coverage of the disaster in Japan and the international response to what has happened, and we are very keen to follow what the NRC is doing in the wake of the incident.

I am working on a profile of Chairman Jaczko and I am wondering whether he would be available for an interview. I am certain that he is extraordinarily busy right now. But I think our readers, both in this country and around the world, are very keen to find out more about him. As the head of the U.S. nuclear safety regulator – the top cop on the nuclear safety beat – he puts a human face on an issue that has sparked so much concern around the globe. I think it would be a very compelling entry point to tell the story of what U.S. regulators are doing and how the regulator works. From the reading I have done on the Chairman, I think this profile will be an interesting read.

Please let me know whether this request might fit into Chairman Jaczko's schedule.  
I look forward to meeting you and working with you as our coverage of the NRC continues.

Best regards,

Roberta Rampton

---

**Roberta Rampton**  
Correspondent

**Reuters**

Phone: 202 898 8376

Mobile: (b)(6)

[roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:roberta.rampton@thomsonreuters.com)

RSS feed: <http://blogs.reuters.com/roberta-rampton/feed/>

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:42 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** RE: Transcript

Do the blog post and link both the statement and transcript to the blog.

Not sure when vote will come out

We can put up this guy's rebuttal, it's going to be so far down the list no one will see it, and I am going to write him a separate note.

eliot

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:35 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Transcript

Do we want to link the transcript or post it on the japan page?

I can do a short blog post linking to it and the chairman's statement – or wait until the press release on the vote goes out and combine both subjects into one post . . .

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Uselding, Lara  
**Subject:** Transcript for yesterday's meeting  
**Attachments:** CommissionMeetingTranscript.pdf

And available here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/recent/2011/>

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**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:32 AM  
**To:** Wittick, Brian  
**Cc:** Sargent, Kimberly; Vietti-Cook, Annette; Grobe, Jack; Leeds, Eric; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Still have not heard from the NY press officer, but you might want to alert OEDO that there could be media (some with cameras) hanging around the WFCOMPLEX hoping to catch the NY folks after the meeting/tour. We have alerted security and told them we have not agreed for the media to come into the buildings.

Beth Hayden  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
--- Protecting People and the Environment  
301-415-8202  
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Wittick, Brian  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:41 AM  
To: Hayden, Elizabeth  
Subject: Re: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

In a prep mtg. Will call shortly

Sent from NRC BlackBerry  
Brian Wittick

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Hayden, Elizabeth  
To: Leeds, Eric; Brenner, Eliot  
Cc: Grobe, Jack; Wittick, Brian  
Sent: Tue Mar 22 08:37:12 2011  
Subject: RE: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Thanks. I'm waiting to hear back from NY press officer to coordinate media inquiries with them. So far we've had interest from CNN, FOX TV, Bloomberg, NHK, NYOneNews to hang out here to catch folks after the meeting. I understand that I will speak for NRC--waiting to hear from NY PO how they wish to speak with the media.

Can I share with reporters the items you provided on what will be discussed at the meeting? Also, those who will attend?

Beth Hayden

Bu/1055

Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
--- Protecting People and the Environment  
301-415-8202  
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Leeds, Eric  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:55 AM  
To: Brenner, Eliot  
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth; Grobe, Jack  
Subject: RE: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Really appreciate the assist from OPA. I'd rather let the professional do the talking with the Press - protect us, Beth!

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1270

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:43 AM  
To: Leeds, Eric  
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth  
Subject: RE: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

My story and I'm sticking to it. FYI, beth will be with you today.

(b)(5)

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Leeds, Eric  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:41 AM  
To: Virgilio, Martin; Wittick, Brian; Borchardt, Bill; Weber, Michael  
Cc: Muessle, Mary; Andersen, James; Sheron, Brian; Dean, Bill; Lew, David; Wiggins, Jim; Nelson, Robert; Markley, Michael; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Evans, Michele; Milligan, Patricia; McDermott, Brian  
Subject: RE: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Try this:

(b)(5)

Comments/suggestions/improvements are welcome. Please provide to Bob Nelson.

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1270

-----Original Message-----

From: Virgilio, Martin  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:52 PM  
To: Wittick, Brian; Borchardt, Bill; Weber, Michael  
Cc: Muessele, Mary; Andersen, James; Leeds, Eric; Sheron, Brian; Dean, Bill; Lew, David; Wiggins, Jim  
Subject: REPLY: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Thanks, Brian

(b)(5)

Marty

-----Original Message-----

From: Wittick, Brian  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:46 PM  
To: Borchardt, Bill; Weber, Michael; Virgilio, Martin  
Cc: Muessele, Mary; Andersen, James; Leeds, Eric; Sheron, Brian; Dean, Bill; Lew, David; Wiggins, Jim  
Subject: Status update on NYS LtGov visit

Bill/Mike/Marty,

Following is an update to the NYS LtGov delegation visiting tomorrow:

The NYS delegation includes:

Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy  
Howard Glaser, Director of State Operations and Senior Policy Advisor Thomas Congdon, Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment Andrew Feeney, Director - New York State Office of Emergency Management Joan Matthews, Assistant Commissioner - Department of Environmental Conservation Paul Eddy, Utilities Supervisor - Department of Public Service Brian Quiara, Senior Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Duffy David Doyle, Press Officer from the Governor's office

Stated topics of interest include:

- The governor's office desires to establish a foundation for communications with the NRC at a high level;
- They desire to obtain a better understanding of the September 2010 report on seismicity, especially with respect to Indian Point; they are also interested in any follow-up reviews or plans for review;
- They want to understand how the findings of the seismic report relate to relicensing;
- Andrew Feeney, Director of Emergency Management is coming as a result of our recommendation to evacuate out to 50 miles in Japan, to understand how this fits into their perceived plans; Tom Congdon indicated they had always only focused on a 10 mile evacuation capability.

It would appear they are bringing a press officer as they want to be able to make a statement after the meeting that they have reached agreement with NRC on certain issues.

The meeting is being held from 1030 - 1200 in O13B4, with HOC tour following.

VR/

Brian Wittick

Executive Technical Assistant for Reactors Office of the Executive Director for Operations U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

301-415-2496 (w) (b)(6) (c)

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:28 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** the MSNBC Blog comment

Don't be misled by NRC's non-denial denial.

NRC hasn't said our numbers are wrong. I checked my interpretation with NRC Public Affairs. No challenge from NRC has arrived after publication.

After all, they're NRC's numbers.

What NRC is saying is that it doesn't do rankings. That's right. We did, from NRC's data. If the NRC was publishing the American League East standings, it would list them alphabetically. (That's OK with me; the Yankees would be last.)

You can see for yourself in the NRC report that:

- NRC says the risk of quakes in the central and eastern states is higher than previously thought.
- It still thinks plants are safe.
- but their margin of safety is reduced.
- and some plants are now near the point where they should be re-examined, and perhaps retrofitted.
- and the technical staff says this should now move from being a research issue to a regulatory issue.
- and it has made its best estimates of the frequency (chance, odds) of an earthquake that would cause core damage to a plant, and those are in Appendix D, last column on the right. The links are at the bottom of the article.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42103936/ns/world\\_news-asiapacific/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42103936/ns/world_news-asiapacific/)

Bv/1056

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**From:** Merrifield, Jeff <jeff.merrifield@shawgrp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:14 AM  
**To:** Jaczko, Gregory; Pete Lyons; Jim Ellis (EllisJo@INPO.Org); Marvin Fertel (msf@nei.org); Bill Webster (WebsterWE@INPO.org)  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot; Scott Peterson (JSP@NEI.org)  
**Subject:** FW: Press Release Crossed Wires: Shaw to Assist Toshiba in Providing Support Services at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant  
**Attachments:** Shaw to Assist Toshiba in Providing Support Services at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.pdf

Folks,

I found out yesterday that you have been conducting a joint effort to have U.S. companies involved in the response effort at Fukushima. We have been working this issue at Shaw since last week and in concert with Toshiba announced that we are sending a team of individuals from our company to assist with the recovery and remediation activities. Please let us know if we may provide any further information.

**Jeffrey S. Merrifield**  
Senior Vice President -Shaw Power Group  
704.378.5227 direct  
(b)(6) cell

**Shaw to Assist Toshiba in Providing Support Services  
at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant**

**BATON ROUGE, La., March 22, 2011** – In response to the tragic events in Japan, The Shaw Group Inc. (NYSE: SHAW) will assist Toshiba Corporation in providing support services for the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan.

As an extension of the relationship the two companies have shared since 2006, Shaw will assist Toshiba with mitigation, remediation and recovery services at the plant. A team of experts from Shaw's Power and Environmental & Infrastructure Groups has mobilized to provide services both on the ground in Japan, as well as engineering, analysis, assessment and design from the U.S.

"The people of Japan have experienced an extraordinary tragedy. It is our hope that Shaw's nuclear, remediation and emergency response expertise will assist in bringing prompt resolution and relief to the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station," said J.M. Bernhard Jr., Shaw's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Our relationship with Toshiba spans the globe. We are ready to help our partners and friends in their response to the events that resulted from this unprecedented natural disaster."

Shaw has extensive experience in nuclear, environmental and natural disaster services. In the aftermath of some of the largest disasters in recent history, Shaw rapidly and effectively mobilized its workforce to provide support following the events at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl nuclear power plants, hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and earthquakes in Haiti, Northridge, Calif., and Sumatra.

The Shaw Group Inc. (NYSE:SHAW) is a leading global provider of engineering, construction, technology, fabrication, remediation and support services for clients in the energy, chemicals, environmental, infrastructure and emergency response industries. A Fortune 500 company with fiscal year 2010 annual revenues of \$7 billion, Shaw has

BV/1057

approximately 27,000 employees around the world and is the power sector industry leader according to Engineering News-Record's list of Top 500 Design Firms. For more information, please visit Shaw's website at [www.shawgrp.com](http://www.shawgrp.com).

###

This press release contains forward-looking statements and information about our current and future prospects, operations and financial results, which are based on currently available information. Actual future results and financial performance could vary significantly from those anticipated in such statements.

Among the factors that could cause future events or transactions to differ from those we expect are those risks discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2010, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended February 28, 2010, May 31, 2010 and November 30, 2010, and other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Please read our "Risk Factors" and other cautionary statements contained in these filings. Our current expectations may not be realized as a result of, among other things:

- Changes in our clients' financial conditions, including their capital spending;
- Our ability to obtain new contracts and meet our performance obligations;
- Client contract cancellations or modifications to contract scope;
- Worsening global economic conditions;
- Changes to the regulatory environment;
- Litigation or arbitration decisions;
- Failure to achieve projected backlog.

As a result of these risks and others, actual results could vary significantly from those anticipated in this press release, and our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, the occurrence of certain events or otherwise.

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<http://www.shawgrp.com>



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media and Financial Contact:

Gentry Brann

225.987.7372

[gentry.brann@shawgrp.com](mailto:gentry.brann@shawgrp.com)

### **Shaw to Assist Toshiba in Providing Support Services at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant**

**BATON ROUGE, La., March 22, 2011** – In response to the tragic events in Japan, The Shaw Group Inc. (NYSE: SHAW) will assist Toshiba Corporation in providing support services for the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan.

As an extension of the relationship the two companies have shared since 2006, Shaw will assist Toshiba with mitigation, remediation and recovery services at the plant. A team of experts from Shaw's Power and Environmental & Infrastructure Groups has mobilized to provide services both on the ground in Japan, as well as engineering, analysis, assessment and design from the U.S.

"The people of Japan have experienced an extraordinary tragedy. It is our hope that Shaw's nuclear, remediation and emergency response expertise will assist in bringing prompt resolution and relief to the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station," said J.M. Bernhard Jr., Shaw's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Our relationship with Toshiba spans the globe. We are ready to help our partners and friends in their response to the events that resulted from this unprecedented natural disaster."

Shaw has extensive experience in nuclear, environmental and natural disaster services. In the aftermath of some of the largest disasters in recent history, Shaw rapidly and effectively mobilized its workforce to provide support following the events at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl nuclear power plants, hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and earthquakes in Haiti, Northridge, Calif., and Sumatra.

The Shaw Group Inc. (NYSE:SHAW) is a leading global provider of engineering, construction, technology, fabrication, remediation and support services for clients in the energy, chemicals, environmental, infrastructure and emergency response industries. A Fortune 500 company with fiscal year 2010 annual revenues of \$7 billion, Shaw has approximately 27,000 employees around the world and is the power sector industry leader according to Engineering News-Record's list of Top 500 Design Firms. For more information, please visit Shaw's website at [www.shawgrp.com](http://www.shawgrp.com).

###

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---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:58 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Uselding, Lara  
**Cc:** Taylor, Robert  
**Subject:** You have to watch this!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sakN2hSVxA>

---

**From:** Wittick, Susan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:55 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Many thanks

Eliot,

Thank you for your kind words to Becky and I am glad that my efforts were helpful to you. I enjoyed working with you, the staff of OPA and Michael Widomski from FEMA to make the media aspect of the Commission Briefing a successful event. I appreciated the opportunity to learn about our Public Affairs operation and contribute to the activities necessitated by the events in Japan.

I look forward to future collaborations with OPA, possibly for the Science Fair Awards Ceremony.

Susan

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:14 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Rebecca  
**Cc:** Wittick, Susan  
**Subject:** Many thanks

Becky: I know I thanked you verbally for the loan of Susan Wittick, but let me at least put this on paper so you can have a more formal record. Susan nearly singlehandedly organized what for OPA was the biggest event of our career since TMI – all the networks via a pool arrangement and 20-plus reporters. It went off without a hitch. Well, no hitches if you don't count the thunderstorms at dawn.

She had everything well in hand and anticipated all the things I would occasionally think of and raise to the point I was telling myself to shut up and sit down because she has got it covered. And, she was exceptionally patient with me. What a pro.

Thanks again.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Md.  
O: 301-415-8200  
C: (b)(6)

BU/1059

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:45 AM  
**To:** Landau, Mindy; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Actually, I'll go back to the caller directly. I'll handle.

---

**From:** Landau, Mindy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:47 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

I assume he's talking about the timeline for the report? Let's wait to respond until the Commission vote, tasking, etc., is released.

---

**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 1:21 PM  
**To:** Landau, Mindy  
**Cc:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Can someone in the EDO's office give us a hand with this request?

**Beth Hayden**  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
— *Protecting People and the Environment*  
301-415-8202  
[elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:35 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Maybe someone in the EDO, as I believe they would have written his presentation?

---

**From:** Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:32 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Anyone in the Ops Center available to provide?

**Beth Hayden**  
Senior Advisor  
Office of Public Affairs

Bu / 1060

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
--- *Protecting People and the Environment*  
301-415-8202  
[elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov)

---

**From:** Harrington, Holly  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:18 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Not sure what to do with this request . . .

---

**From:** Ghneim, Munira  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 12:10 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Holly  
**Subject:** Harrison Akins - U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council

Organization – U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council  
Contact – Harrison Akins  
Phone – 202-450-8824  
Email – [hakins@nuclearinfrastructure.org](mailto:hakins@nuclearinfrastructure.org)  
Request – Would like details of the timeline discussed in the staff briefing this morning.

Thank You  
Munira Ghneim  
Contract Secretary  
Office of Information Services  
301-415-1170

---

**From:** Ledford, Joey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:37 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: Read nytimes piece today

Thanks. Hopefully, with the senator and the licensee running the show, I can blend into the woodwork (or should I say pipework?)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:29 AM  
**To:** Ledford, Joey  
**Subject:** Read nytimes piece today

"Nrc officials said they were confident about preparations already in place but open to improvements."

Also read the AP story.

Good luck.

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C: (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1061

**From:** EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:10 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** News from EnergyGuardian

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Tuesday, March 22, 2011:

**In This E-Mail**

**API says new safety institute will push offshore drillers toward more safety**

**Japan makes progress on cooling reactors, but rod pool boils**

**Marines unveil renewable energy battlefield plan**

**California lawmakers want to delay nuclear expansion**

**WHO urges quick action on food with radiation contamination**

**Salazar headed to Wyoming for major energy announcement**

**Tests on BP blowout preventer could be released soon**

**Judge deals setback to California cap-and-trade program**

**GOP, oil industry try to turn Obama's Brazil comments to advantage**

**Ex-Im Bank disputes GOP claims it gave tax dollars to Brazil oil firm**

**Rising gas prices crimp shoppers' plans**

**NRG slows nuclear project in Texas after Japan crisis**

**Oil and nuclear woes puts natural gas on the upswing**

**New study says global warming common in prehistoric times**

**EU ministers can't reach agreement on nuclear plant tests**

**British oil slick threatens rare penguins**

**Russia offers to use its gas to ease world supplies**

Bu/1062

India to grow coal output next year

Interest in scooters grows with rising oil prices

Daybook: Upcoming events

## API says new safety institute will push offshore drillers toward more safety

By Edward Felker

The American Petroleum Institute's planned Center for Offshore Safety won't be the completely separate industry entity recommended by the presidential oil spill commission.

But it will nonetheless fill the gap between the industry's standards work and verified adoption by companies, said John Modine, director of API's Global Industry Services Group.

He said the decision last Thursday by the API board of directors to create the center within the institute was based on its experience with standards and certification. The group he heads oversees that work, which receives funding separate from API's lobbying activities.

The center is to focus on industry adoption of API's Recommended Practice 75 standards for safety and environmental management systems.

"They felt at the end of the day, everyone felt, more than comfortable that it was being managed by API," Modine said. He stressed that none of the member dues paid to API for advocacy and lobbying are used for standards and certification work, and that the same will hold true for the new offshore safety center.

The National Oil Spill Commission, in its final report, called for establishment of a completely independent industry drilling safety institute, similar to the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations for the nuclear industry.

API has argued that the nuclear industry is not comparable and that as the oil industry's own standards body, it was best suited to oversee the center.

A number of important details remain to be filled in, however, including the makeup of the center's governing board, which is to be open to companies involved in offshore drilling, regardless of whether they are API members.

"This is where we need to reiterate that this is an industry, it's a collaboration of multiple interested parties, that will have a governing board, member and non-members of API," Modine said. "It's designed to represent a great cross-section of the industry, not just an API-led effort," he added.

He said the center will work in cooperation with API's standards-setting

department, but it will also include third-party auditing of its programs, with the intent of improving industry practices.

API said last week that the center will be audited and accredited by the American National Standards Institute and the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Institute.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement requires offshore drillers and contractors to comply with the institute's safety standards, but they can choose outside or self-certification. The center will require its members to submit to outside reviews.

"The mission is to focus completely on driving performance, safety performance, improving safety performance, and continuous improvement," Modine said.

## Japan makes progress on cooling reactors, but rod pool boils

By Eric Talmedge and Mari Yamaguchi

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Weariness and anxiety percolated Tuesday among people who left their homes near Japan's radiation-shedding nuclear complex as workers tried urgently to cool an overheated storage pool and methodically to reconnect critical cooling systems.

In another day of progress and setbacks, a pool holding spent nuclear fuel heated up to around the boiling point, a nuclear safety official said. With water bubbling away, there is a risk that more radioactive steam could spew out. "We cannot leave this alone and we must take care of it as quickly as possible," said the official, Hidehiko Nishiyama.

It wasn't clear if crews had to retreat to stop work hooking up electrical systems and checking machinery to power up cooling systems.

People at Fukushima city's main evacuation center waited in long lines for bowls of hot noodle soup. A truck delivered toilet paper and blankets. Many among the 1,400 people living in the crowded gymnasium came from communities near the nuclear plant and worry about radiation and weary of the daily routine of the displaced.

"It was an act of God," said Yoshihiro Amano, a grocery store owner whose house is 4 miles (6 kilometers) from the reactors. "It won't help anything to get angry. But we are worried. We don't know if it will takes days, months or decades to go home. Maybe never. We are just starting to be able to think ahead to that."

Public sentiment is such that Fukushima's governor rejected a meeting offered

by the president of Tokyo Electric Power Co., or Tepco, the utility that runs the nuclear plant.

“What is most important is for TEPCO to end the crisis with maximum effort. So I rejected the offer,” Gov. Yuhei Sato said on national broadcaster NHK. “Considering the anxiety, anger and exasperation being felt by people in Fukushima, there is just no way for me to accept their apology.”

The nuclear crisis has added a broader dimension to the disaster unleashed by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that pulverized the northeast coast, leaving more than 9,000 dead by official count and twice that in police estimates.

Three of Japan’s marquee companies — Sony Corp., Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. — announced halts to production at plants in Japan. The reason is a shortage of parts — a result of so many ruined factories in the disaster area.

Fears about radiation are reaching well beyond those living near Fukushima and the 430,000 displaced by the earthquake and tsunami to encompass large segments of Japan. Traces of radiation are being found in vegetables and raw milk from a swath of farmland, forcing a government ban on sales from those areas.

Seawater near the Fukushima plant is showing elevated levels of radioactive iodine and cesium, prompting the government to test seafood.

## Marines unveil renewable energy battlefield plan

By Julie Watson

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) — The Marine Corps is going green to save lives rather than to save the planet.

In a renewable energy strategy revealed to troops Monday, the service said it plans to equip thousands of Marines in Afghanistan with solar-powered gadgets over the next year in an effort to decrease the need to make risky runs for fuel through enemy territory.

The Marine Corps said the change comes after the service studied a three-month period last year and found that one Marine is wounded for every 50 trips made for fuel or water in Afghanistan.

The strategy also addresses the ongoing problem of U.S. reliance on the questionable practices of private security companies in Afghanistan that are used to protect the convoys.

A congressional inquiry last year found that some of those companies have been

inadvertently funneling money to the Taliban and threatening the safety of coalition troops because contractors often don't vet local recruits and wind up hiring warlords and thugs.

Trucking contractors who bring in the fuel, mostly from Pakistan, pay tens of millions of dollars a year to local warlords for convoy protection. Marines then truck the fuel from their bases to the smaller outposts.

The green strategy builds on the initial success of a Marine company wrapping up the final weeks of a seven-month deployment to a Taliban stronghold. The unit is equipped with portable solar panels for recharging radios and laptops, and solar-powered generators for running combat operations at its remote outposts.

"The immediate impact is our war fighters are safer today than they were yesterday," said Col. Robert J. Charette Jr., director of the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Energy Office in Washington.

The Corps plans to spend \$9 million to equip Marines deployed to Afghanistan with portable solar panels by 2012, he said. It wants to increase the number of solar-powered generators there from nine to 300 by December 2012.

## California lawmakers want to delay nuclear expansion

By Eric Weintraub

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — State lawmakers called on California utilities Monday to delay efforts to relicense nuclear power plants until the companies complete detailed seismic maps to get a true picture of the risks posed by earthquakes and tsunamis.

State senators raised sharp questions about whether California's nuclear plants can withstand a major natural disaster such as the one on March 11 that has left Japan scrambling to control radiation coming from some of its reactors.

Lawmakers also questioned whether the utilities have been dragging their feet on conducting three-dimensional seismic studies called for in a 2008 state report to assess the risks posed by offshore faults.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has applied to renew its license to operate the two reactors at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant near San Luis Obispo, which expire in 2024 and 2025.

"I would ask sincerely that PG&E suspend or withdraw that application" until the additional seismic mapping is completed, said Sen. Sam Blakeslee of San Luis Obispo, a geophysicist who has been a frequent critic of Diablo Canyon. He said he would pursue legislation to thwart the utility until the mapping is done.

Blakeslee in 2009 introduced a bill that would have required the utility to meet that and other requirements; it won unanimous support in the Legislature but then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it.

Lloyd Cluff, a seismic expert for PG&E, said work started in October for shallow mapping and the utility will apply in April for a permit for deep mapping down to 10 kilometers (six miles) below the surface.

"We're doing it as we speak," Cluff said.

Edison has applied to the Public Utilities Commission for permission to charge ratepayers an estimated \$21.6 million for similar studies at the San Onofre plant north of San Diego along the Southern California coast, said Caroline McAndrews, director of licensing at the plant.

The license for San Onofre expires in 2022 and Edison has not yet applied to renew it.

California gets a total of about 12 percent of its power from the Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear plants.

## WHO urges quick action on food with radiation contamination

By Frank Jordans

GENEVA (AP) — Japan needs to act quickly and ban food sales from areas around the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant if food there has excessive levels of radiation, the World Health Organization said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that radiation in some Japanese milk and vegetables was "significantly higher" than levels Japan allows for consumption, and Japanese authorities are expected to decide by Tuesday on a comprehensive plan to limit food shipments from affected areas.

A spokesman for the Geneva-based U.N. health agency said Monday contaminated food poses a greater long-term risk to residents' health than radioactive particles in the air, which disperse within days. It was the strongest statement yet from the world body on radiation risks to ordinary people, not nuclear workers.

"They're going to have to take some decisions quickly in Japan to shut down and stop food being used completely from zones which they feel might be affected," Gregory Hartl told The Associated Press.

"Repeated consumption of certain products is going to intensify risks, as opposed to radiation in the air that happens once and then the first time it rains

there's no longer radiation in the air.”

The government has already stopped shipments of milk from one area and spinach from another, and said it found contamination on two more vegetables — canola and chrysanthemum greens — and in three more prefectures.

On Sunday, the Health Ministry also advised a village in Fukushima prefecture not to drink tap water because it contained radioactive iodine. It stressed, however, that the amounts posed no health threat.

Fears that Japanese produce could be dangerously radioactive have already prompted authorities in neighboring China to order tests of food imports from Japan, the Xinhua News Agency reported Monday.

Food from Japan makes up a tiny fraction of China's imports, but jitters over possible radiation from the tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear plant have sparked a run on iodized salt in China in the mistaken belief that it protects against radiation contamination.

## Salazar headed to Wyoming for major energy announcement

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is heading to Wyoming to make a “major energy announcement” with Gov. Matt Mead on Tuesday, prompting speculation of some kind of development involving the state's vast coal industry, BusinessWeek reports.

[Read more](#)

## Tests on BP blowout preventer could be released soon

The firm hired to test the ill-fated BP well's blowout preventer to determine why it didn't stop last year's Gulf of Mexico oil spill has submitted its results to government investigators and the results could be made public as soon as this week, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

## Judge deals setback to California cap-and-trade program

A state judge ruled Monday that California did not adequately consider alternatives to its plan to create a cap-and-trade market for carbon emissions,

setting back the nation's most aggressive effort to combat climate change, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

## GOP, oil industry try to turn Obama's Brazil comments to advantage

Republicans like House Speaker John Boehner and the oil industry's main lobby are trying to parlay President Barack Obama's weekend comments in support of Brazilian oil development into political pressure to force the White House to approve more domestic drilling, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

## Ex-Im Bank disputes GOP claims it gave tax dollars to Brazil oil firm

The U.S. Export-Import Bank is refuting GOP charges that any tax dollars have been used to provide Brazil's largest oil company with a commitment for a \$2 billion loan to buy U.S. goods and services.

[Read more](#)

## Rising gas prices crimp shoppers' plans

Shoppers plan to wait until next year and beyond to spend generously again, a survey on Monday showed, in an early sign that rising gasoline prices could make the spring selling season tough for retailers, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

## NRG slows nuclear project in Texas after Japan crisis

NRG Energy has slowed work on new nuclear power reactors in Texas because the Japanese crisis has created uncertainty about regulations and investment,

The Dallas Morning News reports.

[Read more](#)

## Oil and nuclear woes puts natural gas on the upswing

The BP oil spill and the Japan nuclear crisis are opening the door for natural gas to be seized as a safer, future energy source, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

## New study says global warming common in prehistoric times

A new study in the journal Nature concludes rapid global warming occurred on Earth much more frequently than previously thought.

[Read more](#)

## EU ministers can't reach agreement on nuclear plant tests

European Union energy ministers have failed to reach consensus on the criteria for "stress tests" of the continent's nuclear power plants as a rift widened between France and Germany, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

## British oil slick threatens rare penguins

An oil slick from a wrecked ship is threatening endangered penguins in a remote British South Atlantic territory, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

## Russia offers to use its gas to ease world supplies

Russia is offering to ease strains on global natural gas markets from Japan's nuclear crisis and Libyan strife after years of being criticized for using its energy reserves as a political weapon, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

## India to grow coal output next year

India announced Tuesday it will grow coal output by seven percent to eight percent, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

## Interest in scooters grows with rising oil prices

The spike in gas prices is causing some motorists to consider more fuel-efficient second vehicles, such as scooters, small motorcycles, e-bikes and regular bikes, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

- Mar. 22, Washington: U.S. Chamber of Commerce holds forum, "Restoring Balance to the Regulatory Process." Former OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Admin. John Graham, others to speak. 8:30 am, 1615 H. Street, N.W.
- Mar. 22, Washington: Center for Strategic and International Studies holds forum, "High-Impact Energy Efficiency." Speakers include DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Climate Policy Rick Duke. 9:00 am, 1800 K Street, N.W.
- Mar. 22, Cheyenne, Wyo.: Interior Sec. Salazar joins Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead for energy announcement. Time is EDT. 3:00 pm, South High School.

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You can e-mail us at [energy@washingtonguardian.net](mailto:energy@washingtonguardian.net)



This email was sent to eliot.brenner@nrc.gov by [energy@washingtonguardian.net](mailto:energy@washingtonguardian.net) |  
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---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:50 AM  
**To:** Sheron, Brian  
**Cc:** Valentin, Andrea; Kardaras, Tom; Donaldson, Leslie  
**Subject:** Re: request for assistance

Thanks, kind sir.

Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sheron, Brian  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Cc:** Valentin, Andrea; Kardaras, Tom; Donaldson, Leslie  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 21:19:25 2011  
**Subject:** RE: request for assistance

I will check with Andrea tomorrow. If Amy has any time that we can spare her, I will gladly make her available to you. I just don't want to make a binding commitment at this time.

---

**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 6:54 PM  
**To:** Sheron, Brian  
**Subject:** RE: request for assistance

Ok. Never hurts to ask. Thanks muchly for even considering it.

Eliot

**From:** Sheron, Brian  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 6:38 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: request for assistance

Eliot, I hate saying no, but we are getting overwhelmed and drained of staff.

I haven't seen my deputy or two of my division directors for several days, because they are all on graveyard shift IRC duty. I don't have a 3rd division director because Commissioner Apostolakis took Chris Lui and Rich Correia won't start here until 3/28. One of my deputy division directors and an SL just got sent to Japan to be part of Casto's team. I have several staff working in the IRC, and I'm running around doing weekend duty as the IRC ET Director, briefing congressional staff, and interacting with DOE Secretary Chu and his swat team.

**From:** Brenner, Eliot

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:17 PM

To: Sheron, Brian

Subject: request for assistance

Brian: we are more than a little snowed under with media and public inquiry because of the Japan quake. That doesn't make us too much different than the rest of the agency, but ...

The focus is beginning to shift to the agency and our regulatory regime will be under a real spotlight going forward, not to mention that the task force Jaczko is going to have assembled will require a fair amount of OPA support.

I wonder if you could lend me Amy Bonoccorso for a month with the proviso that when she is not helping me she gets the most important parts of her RES work accomplished. Given my druthers, I'd really like to ask for 90 days, but I don't want to seem overly greedy. I can always plead poverty again later!

Any chance I can steal her for a bit? I promise no banjo jokes as long as I have her services.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 9:23 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Fw: MEDIA - FW: Nancy Roth - Fuel Cycle Week

(b)(5)

David McIntyre  
NRC Office of Public Affairs

(b)(6) (mobile)

301-415-8200 (office)

Sent from my BlackBerry, which is wholly responsible for all typos.

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**From:** Nancy Roth <neroth@innuco.com>  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 19:48:01 2011  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA - FW: Nancy Roth - Fuel Cycle Week

Hi, Dave,

I've been watching coverage of NRC's take on the radiation dangers in the area around Fukushima since Commissioner Jaczko advised the White House to evacuate Americans within a 50 mile radius of the affected unit there. From what I've been able to discern, it seems Dr. Jaczko was working from reports of commission staff that were in Japan at the time.

But in the meeting this morning I heard something slightly different. William Borchardt said that the 50-mile radius guidance was not "based on existing conditions" at that time but on what it could lead to. He emphasized that were the issues with a U.S. reactor the NRC would provide the "exact same recommendation."

Meanwhile TEPCO and the Japanese government both vigorously denied Dr. Jaczko's assertions last week. I think the U.S. recommendation made them look like they had been withholding information from their own people.

So I can't believe Dr. Jaczko and the White House would make these recommendations lightly. Isn't there something more you can tell me about the reports from the staff on site in Japan? It shouldn't be confidential information if it spurred the recommendation of this very aggressive evacuation.

How did they arrive at the conclusion that the water in the spent fuel containers was gone? A lot of my colleagues are scratching their heads about that. And is it possible to get numbers on the levels of radiation the spent fuel storage facilities emitted, and over what period of time, that alarmed the senior administration officials?

Many thanks,  
Nancy

On Mar 21, 2011, at 5:25 PM, McIntyre, David wrote:

BU/1064

Hi Nancy – We've had some issues with the reliability of information coming from the Japanese too – but that's probably to be expected given the disruption of the earthquake/tsunami and the difficulty in knowing exactly what's going on in the plant. We of course have our team in Japan to help with relaying information, as well as other assets.

Dave McIntyre

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**From:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 4:43 PM  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Subject:** MEDIA - FW: Nancy Roth - Fuel Cycle Week

Can you follow-up? Ivonne

**Ivonne L. Couret**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Public Affairs  
Media Desk  
[opa.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:opa.resource@nrc.gov)  
301-415-8200

Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

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**From:** Ghneim, Munira  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 4:38 PM  
**To:** Couret, Ivonne  
**Subject:** Nancy Roth - Fuel Cycle Week

Organization – Fuel Cycle Week  
Contact – Nancy Roth  
Phone – did not want to leave a number  
Email – [neroeth@innuoco.com](mailto:neroeth@innuoco.com)  
Request – Would like a handle on how the NRC understands what is going on. Japan's information is inconsistent.

Thank You  
Munira Ghneim  
Contract Secretary  
Office of Information Services  
301-415-1170

---

**From:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 9:19 PM  
**To:** 'james\_ostroff@platts.com'  
**Cc:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Re: Platts media -- question

Jim + these are very good questions. As your deadline is tomorrow I will wait to answer them, as I am really hating my BlackBerry at the moment.

David McIntyre  
NRC Office of Public Affairs

(b)(6) (mobile)  
301-415-8200 (office)  
Sent from my BlackBerry, which is wholly respnsble for all typos.

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**From:** Ostroff, James <james\_ostroff@platts.com>  
**To:** McIntyre, David  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 18:53:49 2011  
**Subject:** Platts media -- question

Hi David,

I wanted to check with you regarding an issue raised today by several Union of Concerned Scientists officials.

Their points:

Nuclear plant operators on their own should move as much spent fuel as possible from pools to storage casks.

This would mitigate the entire issue of loss of power and water for cooling that is an issue at the Fukushima plants, they said.

If operators are reluctant to step up cask storage, UCS officials say the NRC should issue a directive to operators to do so, they said.

If you have a comment on the UCS officials' points that's fine; I'd like to have them.

But if not..., I would appreciate some factual information.

Do operators have leeway, on their own, to move nuclear fuel waste from pools to dry casks-- assuming the casks meet NRC standards?

Or, do operators need some type of NRC approval--or have to file documents with the agency?

Does NRC have any proceeding in progress that would in any way affect bear on the use of fuel pools vs. dry casks?

If NRC made a determination that some amount, or percentage of spent fuel at nuclear power units should be moved

from pools to storage casks, would it have to issue a regulation, or revise an existing one to effect this change?

Perhaps NRC has a specific authority that would it to order this unilaterally.

This article came up a bit earlier this evening. I have a 4 p.m. deadline Tuesday.

I don't need voluminous replies! Just the essentials will do. An e-mail reply is fine, but we could talk on the phone, too.

Many thanks for your help,

--Jim

**Jim Ostroff**

Senior Editor

Platts Nuclear Publications

202 383-2249

[james\\_ostroff@platts.com](mailto:james_ostroff@platts.com)

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**From:** Gemma Puglisi <puglisi@american.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 8:41 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** RE: WOW!! another great visit

you rock. this meant so much to all of us....you are wonderful. thank you.

don't work tooo hard. talk soon.

please thank barbara as well.

-----"Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote: -----

To: Gemma Puglisi <puglisi@american.edu>  
From: "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
Date: 03/21/2011 07:05PM  
Subject: RE: WOW!! another great visit

Glad to do it. I figured coming fresh off the battlefield would be helpful.

eliot

---

**From:** Gemma Puglisi [mailto:puglisi@american.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 6:53 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** WOW!! another great visit

Eliot!

Thank you again for another extraordinary appearance.

We just loved it and your comments about the current crisis was extraordinary.

thanks again for taking time out of your crazy schedule.

look forward to chatting soon. thanks again.

warm wishes, gemma

-----"Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote: -----

To: "puglisi@american.edu" <puglisi@american.edu>  
From: "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
Date: 03/17/2011 11:42AM  
Subject: Re: american university--march 21st

Gemma : I cannot guantee I will be there. I am managoing PR on the japan issue. I may have to givwe you an answer monday morning.

In car enroute white house now. This is a good as it gets.

Eliot  
Eliot Brenner  
Director, Office of Public Affairs

BU/1066

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Protecting People and the Environment  
301 415 8200  
C (b)(6)  
Sent from my Blackberry

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**From:** Gemma Puglisi <puglisi@american.edu>  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Thu Mar 17 11:28:29 2011  
**Subject:** Re: american university--march 21st

Hey there, Eliot,

we are sooo excited that you will be at AU on monday.....

As mentioned, the class begins at 3:35--and ends around 4:50....

It's same building, Mary Graydon Center,  
3rd Floor

but the room is 332.....it's a lab. Call me on my cell when you are near--- (b)(6) ...and I'll meet you...

thanks again! warm wishes, gemma (office) 202-885-2153

Thanks!

-----Gemma Puglisi/puglisi/AmericanU wrote: -----

**To:** "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>  
**From:** Gemma Puglisi/puglisi/AmericanU  
**Date:** 03/04/2011 09:10AM  
**Subject:** Re: american university--march 21st

Perfect. 3:30. So look forward to it. Thx.

On Mar 4, 2011, at 8:48 AM, "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

March 21 is a lovely day. Just refresh my memory as to what time to show up.

---

**From:** Gemma Puglisi [mailto:puglisi@american.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 8:16 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** american university--march 21st

hi there, eliot!

thanks for coming to AU again.

i know we pencilled two days in march.

march 21st would be better. is that ok? do let me know and we again, look forward to it!

-----"Brenner, Eliot" <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)> wrote: -----

To: 'Gemma Puglisi' <[puglisi@american.edu](mailto:puglisi@american.edu)>  
From: "Brenner, Eliot" <[Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov](mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov)>  
Date: 02/10/2011 06:51PM  
Subject: RE: Hey there Eliot!!! hope you are doing great

Either day is fine. I will pencil both in and we can figure out which it is closer to the date.

eliot

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**From:** Gemma Puglisi [<mailto:puglisi@american.edu>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 6:25 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Hey there Eliot!!! hope you are doing great  
**Importance:** High

Hey there, Eliot!

Hope you are doing great.

Just wanted to drop you a line to say hi and see if I can impose on you--and your wonderful presence-- to speak to my PR Writing class this semester.

Here are dates that would work:

Thursday, March 17th class begins at 3:35--and ends at 4:50

Monday, March 21st, same time.

Same building...same floor, different room 332.

I would love for you to discuss what you have in the past...but what you wrote...and how you spoke to the media.

Thanks so much. Would love to have you back.

Hope all is well. warm wishes, gemma (202-885-2153)

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 7:05 PM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** FW: Chairman's Com is attached  
**Attachments:** Tasking Following Japan Earthquake.docx

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**From:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 11:28 AM  
**To:** Burnell, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: Chairman's Com is attached

fyi

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**From:** Batkin, Joshua  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 11:13 AM  
**To:** Brenner, Eliot  
**Subject:** Fw: Chairman's Com is attached

Joshua C. Batkin  
Chief of Staff  
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
(301) 415-1820

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**From:** Speiser, Herald  
**To:** Adler, James; Batkin, Joshua; Bradford, Anna; Clark, Lisa; Coggins, Angela; Dhir, Neha; Fopma, Melody; Gibbs, Catina; Hipschman, Thomas; Loyd, Susan; Marshall, Michael; Monninger, John; Montes, David; Pace, Patti; Pearson, Laura; Speiser, Herald; Warren, Roberta  
**Sent:** Mon Mar 21 10:45:34 2011  
**Subject:** FW: Chairman's Com is attached

To all staff - FYI

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**From:** Coggins, Angela  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 10:41 AM  
**To:** Vietti-Cook, Annette  
**Cc:** Speiser, Herald; Pace, Patti  
**Subject:** Chairman's Com is attached

I'm not sure if the formal processing of this has started, but can we do that now? Thanks!!

Angela B. Coggins  
Policy Director  
Office of Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
[301-415-1828/angela.coggins@nrc.gov](mailto:301-415-1828/angela.coggins@nrc.gov)

BU/1067

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# OPA-

## PRESS RELEASE

(Source: CHRMN )

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### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION DIRECTS STAFF ON CONTINUING AGENCY RESPONSE TO JAPAN QUAKE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted Monday to start the agency in carrying out President Obama's request for a comprehensive safety review of U.S. nuclear power plants, in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami on Japanese nuclear power plants.

Acting on a proposal from NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko, the Commission voted 5-0 for the staff to adopt a two-pronged approach to analyzing the issue in both the short and long term.

"Our focus is always on keeping plants and radioactive materials in this country safe and secure," Chairman Jaczko said "Examining all the available information from Japan is essential to understanding the event's implications for the United States. As the immediate crisis in Japan comes to an end, we will perform that analysis and see if there are changes should be made to further protect public health and safety."

NRC senior technical staff provided the Commission a 90-minute briefing. The staff reiterated their conclusions that U.S. territory will avoid any harmful radiation levels as a result of the ongoing events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant damaged by the quake and subsequent tsunami. Following the briefing, the Commission held a follow-on meeting and decided the agency should maintain its near-term focus on inspecting the systems and procedures most important for dealing with severe events at U.S. reactors. The Commission set a schedule for the staff to provide formal updates on the effort in 30, 60 and 90 days.

The staff expects NRC inspectors posted at every U.S. nuclear power plant will carry out this effort, supplemented as necessary by experts from the agency's regional and headquarters offices.

"These inspections will help determine if any additional NRC responses, such as Orders requiring immediate action by U.S. plants, are called for prior to completing an in-depth investigation of the information from events in Japan," said NRC Executive Director for Operations Bill Borchardt.

The NRC's longer-term efforts will bring to bear not only the agency's considerable research assets, but any relevant resources from throughout the U.S. government. This work will inform any permanent NRC regulation changes determined to be necessary. The Commission expects the staff will begin this long-term evaluation in no later than 90 days, and the staff should provide a report with recommended actions within six months.

“The staff’s proposed course of action clearly reflects their considerable expertise and experience, and appears both prudent and reasonable,” Chairman Jaczko said. “The schedule we’ve set will move the NRC forward methodically and systematically in ensuring the American people are safe when the nation’s nuclear facilities operate.”

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