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**To:** [jesse@blatantpictures.com](mailto:jesse@blatantpictures.com)  
**Subject:** Response to Inquiry on Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 08, 2014 11:08:00 AM

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Mr. Berger,

I am responding to your email of December 16, 2013 to the Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While we have no direct role in overseeing actions at the Fukushima site, the NRC is cooperating with our counterpart agency in Japan, the Nuclear Regulation Authority. Other U.S. federal agencies are also offering assistance to the Japanese in their efforts to address the ongoing cleanup and decommissioning of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. As you mentioned in your email, there are problems at the site and some releases of radioactive materials to Pacific Ocean occurred not only as a direct result of the accident, but also from contaminated water that has bypassed barriers or leaked from interim storage systems. The concentrations of radioactive elements within the ocean waters remain very low off the coast of Japan and even less off the coasts of North America – orders of magnitude below the concentrations established by the US and international bodies for the protection of public health and the environment. We can measure and predict the movement of these low concentrations long before they could reach levels that could affect the environment or our consumption of fish such as Bluefin tuna or Alaskan salmon. While various ecological problems are occurring in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere, one should avoid making the leap of blaming them on the accident at Fukushima (which did result in some significant issues in closer proximity to the site) and possibly missing more logical manmade or natural causes for issues such as the decline in starfish that you mention. For example, the website “Deep Sea News” has information that discusses Starfish Wasting Syndrome (<http://deepseanews.com/2013/11/true-facts-about-ocean-radiation-and-the-fukushima-disaster/>) and an expert from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute has an excellent overall discussion of Fukushima and the Pacific (<http://www.whoi.edu/page.do?pid=83397&tid=3622&cid=94989>). The NRC has prepared and posted on its website a description of status of the Fukushima Daiichi site (including some of the ongoing problems) as well as links to other agencies and sources of information (e.g., Food and Drug Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The link is: <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1326/ML13263A306.pdf>

Descriptions of the various activities that the NRC has undertaken to address lessons learned from the Fukushima accident and possible implications for nuclear power plants in the U.S. are available at the following page on the NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/japan-dashboard.html>

Please email me if you have additional questions about the NRC or our response to the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

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