

From: [Tom Gurdziel](#)
To: [CHAIRMAN Resource](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Michael](#); [Screnci, Diane](#); [Ledford, Joey](#); [Mittlyng, Viktoria](#); [Dricks, Victor](#); [ESTRONSKI@aol.com](#); [T Holden](#); [Lyon, Jill:\(NMP\)](#); [Bridget Frymire](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] Fukushima-related Comment for October 18, 2016
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Good morning,

A Current Lesson for Us

I just finished reading the article “Accelerate water-purifying work at Fukushima plant to cut leakage risk”, dated October 13, 2016 in “The Japan News by the Yomiuri Shimbun”. And I think it clearly presents us with a current lesson.

Despite 5 ½ years of pumping water, partially cleaning it, then storing it on site in tanks, the problem of ever-increasing cumulative amounts of contaminated water remains. Yet the reported plan appears to be: do more of the same, but on a larger scale!

This makes no sense to me. And the cause, (to me), seems to be that high level people, both in the company and the regulatory agency, are unable to accept the fact that their current course of action is not sustainable and is wrong.

The current lesson that I see is this: staffing high level nuclear industry positions with people who will not admit defeat is costly, time-consuming, and ineffective. We need people who can identify failure, then attack the problem in a different way.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel
Member, ASME

(The reader of the referenced article should challenge statements such as the implication in paragraph 4 that groundwater is not already tainted.)



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