Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Disaster

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Overview

- What Happened
- Current Issues
- Action Plan

What Happened at Fukushima

- Earthquake of 9.0 magnitude hit East cost of Japan
- Power Lines to Fukushima collapsed
 - Plant left without primary source of power
 - "Scram Mode"
 - Backup Generators below plant kicked in

What Happened at Fukushima

- 15 meter tall Tsunami hit coast
- Power plant only had 6 meter wall
- Water flooded the site
 - Rendered the underground Diesel Generators useless
 - Backup power now gone

What Happened at Fukushima

- Temperature and Pressure rose drastically within plants
- Pressure Release Valve was ordered opened Failed
- Build-up eventually caused sites 1,2,3 to explode
 - Released radioactive air into atmosphere
 - Spilled contaminated water into ocean

Current Issues

Cesium-137 used as material

- Half life of 30 years
- Drinking water declared unsafe
- Cannot farm, soil exposure to radioactivity
- Blackouts still present in surrounding area
 - 3 of 6 reactors active
 - No alternative power solution for the area

Groundwater contamination at Fukushima

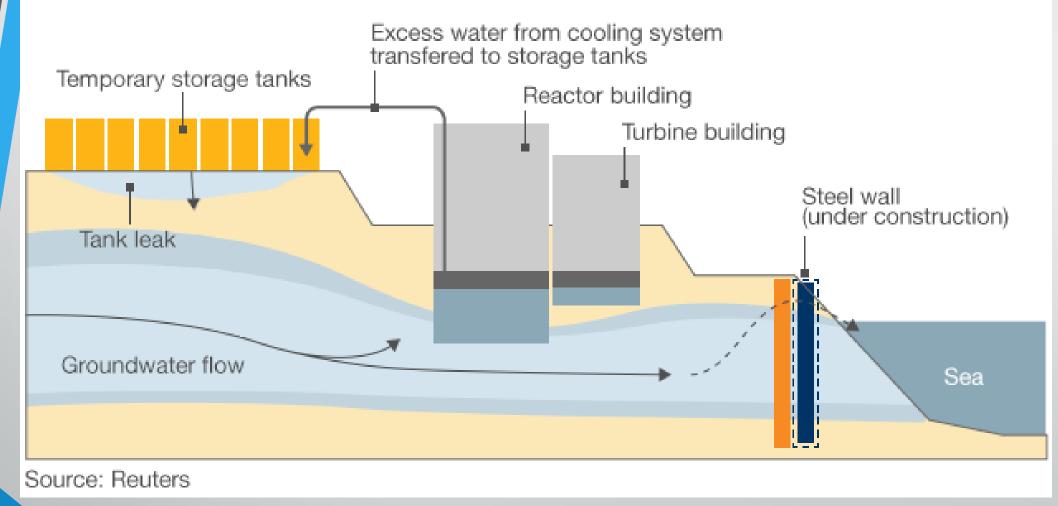


Figure 1 – Groundwater contamination diagram. [1]



How the 'ice wall' could work

Refrigeration plant

1. Shafts drilled into ground around perimeter of damaged reactors.

3. Coolant water chilled to -20 to -40 degrees pumped in and circulated

Groundwater

4. This would create a wall of frozen soil 90 ft (27 metres) deep in 6-8 weeks preventing groundwater flow

2. 'Freeze pipes'

9/16/2013 Source: Tepco / Reuters 8

Figure 2 – The ice wall. [1]

Current Issues

- Stop leakage from storage tanks to ground water
- Permanent steel wall under construction
- Ice Wall solution, quicker, temporary and risky

Action Plan

Prepare for disaster

- Meet all safety regulations
- Make QRF

• 3 Teams

- Safety and containment
- Restore and rebuild
- Medical and communication

Conclusion

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- Action Plan

References

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- 2. <u>http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Safety-and-Security/Safety-of-</u> <u>Plants/Fukushima-Accident-2011/#.UjaozsxVepl</u>
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Any Questions?