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Pressure at Damaged Japanese Nuclear Reactor Rising With Fears

Coastal U.S. Nuclear Power Plants Brace for Tsunami After Japanese Quake

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Japanese Quake Stirs Nuclear Concerns

and renewed concerns about the security of other nuclear facilities in the tsunami's path.



Officials with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission are "closely monitoring" operations at two California nuclear power plants situated directly on the coast and at risk of impact from the approaching tsunami triggered by the quake off of Japan's coast.

Both the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County and the San Onofre Power Plant in San Diego County are still operating normally but taking preparatory action, an NRC official told ABC News.

A tsunami has potential to disrupt operations and power output at the facilities, which rely on steady sea water flow for energy.

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But officials said a giant wave would not likely damage the reactor or create a safety risk to the public. Experts say the sealed containment structure around the reactor would protect it from the water, although other parts of the plant facility could be damaged.

The December 2004 tsunami triggered by a magnitude 9 earthquake off the coast of India led to the automatic shut down of the Kalpakkam nuclear power plant near Chennai after water levels fluctuated in the cooling water intake. It resumed operations six days later.

Japanese nuclear power plants have been tested repeatedly by earthquakes in recent years and

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operated effectively, according to the [World Nuclear Association](#). Worldwide, 20 percent of nuclear powerplants operate in areas of "significant seismic activity," according to the association.

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This is a likely disaster beyond all horrors of the imagination! I live in California and I'm getting as far inland as possible with my children. We may drive to Salt Lake and then fly to Chicago where I have relatives. I can't get hold of my husband but under the circumstances we have no choice. The radioactive cloud is bound to saturate San Francisco with deadly gamma rays and I have my children to think of. Why has there been no general evacuation order? Doesn't the U.S. government care at all for the welfare of their citizens?
desperateamerican 1:08 PM

ABC News/Obama Media - Newsflash: If only we had more solar and wind turbines. This tsunami is George Bush fault and global warmings fault.
stancay oto 1:05 PM

"Up to 100 percent of the volatile radioactive Cesium-137 content of the pools could go up in flames and smoke, to blow downwind over large distances," said Kevin Kamps, a nuclear waste specialist at Beyond Nuclear, which is an advocacy group that opposes nuclear weapons and power."Given the large quantity of irradiated nuclear fuel in the pool, the radioactivity release could be worse than the Chernobyl nuclear

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reactor catastrophe of 25 years ago."Talk about fear mongering of the highest order... Why include this obviously biased and out-of-place agenda driven material?
sb32511 12:58 PM



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