Japanese nuclear plant operator admits playing down risk

By the CNN Wire Staff
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(CNN) -- The operator of a Japanese nuclear power plant where a catastrophic accident was set off last year by a massive earthquake and tsunami acknowledged Friday that it had played down safety risks at the facility out of fear that they would lead to a plant shutdown.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, known as TEPCO, said in a report that "severe accident measures" were taken in 2002, which included "containment venting and power supply cross-ties between units," but additional measures were never put in place.

Part of the reason, the report said, was a concern that implementing the new safety measures "could spread concern in the sitting community that there is a problem with the safety of current plants." TEPCO added that the measures could also "add momentum to anti-nuclear movements."

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Part of the reason, the report said, was a concern that implementing the new safety measures "could spread concern in the sitting community that there is a problem with the safety of current plants."

TEPCO added that taking such measures could also add to "public anxiety and add momentum to anti-nuclear movements."

Friday's report represents some of the operator's most definitive language to date about its lack of preparation in protecting the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, which ultimately spewed radiation and displaced tens of thousands of residents from the surrounding area in the worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine.

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"There was a latent fear that plant shutdown would be required until severe accident measures were put in place," the report said. "It was possible to diversify safety systems by referencing severe accident measures taken in other countries."

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Japanese nuclear plant operator admits playing down risk

In the past year, TEPCO has come under intense scrutiny for not aggressively seeking answers to the underlying causes of what prompted the disaster.

The Japanese government said in an earlier report that the operator's and the nuclear regulator's actions to prepare for disasters were "insufficient," and called the response to the crisis "inadequate."

CNN's Pierre Meilhan contributed to this report.

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Living in North America, it has been an amazing "journey" since 3/11/11 following the daily developments in Japan and the slow realization, that in reality, the Japanese people have ZERO say in the running of their Country especially where Nuclear Energy is concerned because those in charge are merely figure-heads for the "Utility Gangs" that are "calling the shots" as they say in the USA!

This is not just a Japanese problem, President Obama did not even mention Nuclear Energy in his acceptance speech at the DEM convention, yet soon after, the DOE sent a group to Japan to "urge" Japanese Leaders to embrace the use of nuclear energy and I think Japan got a modern Patriot antimissile system as a Thank You!

Because I am not Japanese, perhaps you could ask your Countrymen a question for me that I have been asking the Leaders in the...

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2 things to consider:

The Japanese are clearly trying to keep SECRET the huge health implications caused by Fukushima despite the ever increasing number of private Geiger Counter being used to "MAP" the spread of radiation caused by Fukushima and ALSO the 24/7 burning of radioactive debris...

日本は明らかに、"MAP"福島による放射の広がり、また、放射性汚染の7分の2が処理され、使用されている民間のガイガーカウンターの増加にかかわらず、福島によって引き起こすSECRET巨大な健康への影響を維持しようとしている...

"Why are the health (and death) records in Northern Japan being kept secret?"
なぜ北日本レコードは秘密にされている健康（と死）がありますか?

The risks at every nuclear plant are downplayed. The man who planned the 911 attacks was originally planning on attacking nuclear facilities. Imagine what the US would be like today and for the next 50+ years if they instead flew 4 jets into 4 nuclear reactors causing 4 instant meltdowns.

TJSantos

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