Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Nuclear Power Plant Risks

Suzu City Susumu KITANO

2024.2.19



Contents of Presentation





Fortunate there is no Nuclear Power Plant at Jiké



Land uplift at planned reactor core site

2024.1.20, Photo: Kitano

Fortunate there is no Nuclear Power Plant at Jiké



Before Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Within planned site area, ground uplift (protuberance) is approximately 1 meter. 2024.1.20, Photo: Kitano

Fortunate there is No Nuclear Power Plant at Takaya

2003.5, Photo: Kitano

About 2m uplift at planned NPP site





Widespread protuberance

2024.1.29, Photo: Kitano

Uplift, Land Cracking, Sinking, Landslides, Falling rocks (Scenes from Takaya)



Shika Nuclear Power Plant - Fortunate it was Shut Down

The tremor, measuring 5+ on the Japanese seismic scale, caused damage and numerous problems at the facility.



If it had been in operation...

Would more difficult tasks such as emergency shutdown and cooling of the reactors have been possible?

Prompt and accurate dissemination of information would be unlikely.

Transformer in Unit 1 leaked oil (Photo: Hokuriku Electric Power Co., Inc.)

The next major earthquake?

Prof. Shinji Toda, Tohoku University:

After the Noto Peninsula earthquake, forces are active making an earthquake likely to occur at faults off Sado Island and offshore and south of the Shika Nuclear Power Plant.

(Announced Jan 9)



The next major earthquake?



It indicates that the fault is more likely to shift from off the northeast coast of the Noto Peninsula to off Sado Island and off the western coast of the Noto Peninsula, as well as from the Kaga region to Toyama Prefecture, meaning that earthquakes are more likely to occur.

と陸周辺の断層帯に与

Ishikawa TV News (Feb 2)

Kanazawa Univ. Prof. Yoshihiro Hiramatsu

Can Shika NPP withstand the next earthquake?



Destruction of the region: Response is not possible, even with all forces available in the region



Destruction of the region: Fire and police personnel also affected





Mainichi Shimbun



Police, firefighters and Self-Defense Forces from all over Japan saved lives.

Photo: FDMA

Destruction of the region: Fire brigade members also affected



Photo: Japanese Red Cross Society



Self-Defense Forces, Japan Red Cross and specialized disaster relief teams on their way to help isolated villages

Destruction of the region: Local government employees also affected

Mainichi Shimbun



More than 1,000 local government officials from throughout Japan providing support

Destruction of the region: Construction companies also affected



Jan 5, Photo: Kitano



Photo: Zenken HP

Many businesses from outside the region entered the area for road restoration work

Destruction of the region: Food and daily commodities in short supply



Relief supplies arrive from all over Japan

If coinciding with a nuclear disaster...





Shimano Shimbun



Ishikawa Television

NEWS Post Seven

Support from all over the country would be cut off and the entire region be isolated.

Who is responsible for nuclear emergency preparedness?



Difficulty in even having people gather at an off-site center.



Ishikawa Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Prevention Training (Photo: Kitano) The "command post" of nuclear disaster management, the on-site disaster headquarters, would not function

Who is responsible for nuclear emergency preparedness?



Evacuation buses would not come

Ishikawa Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Prevention Training (Photo: Kitano) Unrealistic drive-through potassium iodine distribution

Who is responsible for nuclear emergency preparedness?



Ishikawa Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Prevention Training (Photo: Kitano)

Difficult even to set up an evacuation/exit inspection site

Lessons from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Isolation of the region due to an earthquake from specific circumstances of a peninsula.

Regional isolation with the addition of a nuclear disaster is a risk common to all nuclear power plant locations.



NRA Chairman Shinsuke Yamanaka Downplaying Nuclear Disasters

- Will not change basic approach of Nuclear Emergency Response Guidelines
- Limits discussion to only sheltering in place
 - Not looking at reality of destruction of region/community
 - Reducing the issue to just the problem of collapsed houses
 - Insufficient awareness, especially of local manpower shortage

In complex disasters, give priority to response to natural disasters!

Not even able to respond to natural disasters!!

Need for Change in Nuclear Energy Policy



Earthquake disaster makes selfevacuation difficult

Nuclear disaster makes outside earthquake disaster assistance difficult

Residents are trapped and exposed to radiation

Isolation of contaminated areas prolonged, without relief

Evacuation plans not viable