# Global Energy Policy Research | GEPR

????(?) - ??????????????

????????? · Tuesday, January 14th, 2014

(?)?(?)?????

????24

In the course of my research,
I also discovered some appalling
evidence about an episode
that occurred shortly after 3/11

???????????????????????????????

????25

It may be recalled that on March 16, 2011, the top US nuclear regulator asserted publicly that the situation at Fukushima Daichi was much worse than Japanese authorities had indicated.

US Calls Radiation "Extremely High;" Sees Japan Nuclear Crisis Worsening

By Hiroko Tahuchi, Maxhew L. Wald-and David Espo, The New York Times News Service | Report | name



Gengery Jacobo, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Cerministen, speaks at a Rouse Energy and Cemmerce Committee meeting on Capital Hill in Washington, on March 16, 2011. Jacobo discussed the dangers of a suclear rankdown in Japan and said the US has no plans to shut down reactors in light of the disaster. (Thosi: Philip Scott Anderws / The New York Times)

Gregory Jaczko, Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, told Congress that the spent fuel pool in Reactor No. 4 was dry, which meant that a radiationspewing fire might start at any time.

As a result, Jaczko announced, US citizens would be subject to a wider evacuation zone than that set by the Japanese government.

Washington - The chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave a far bleaker appraisal on Wednesday of the threat posed by Japan's nuclear crisis than the Japanese government had offered. He said American officials believed

2011?3?16????????????????????????????????
??????????????????????????????????????
???????????????????????????????????????

### This episode got huge media attention (understandably so)

Japanese officials promptly disputed Jaczko's claim about the spent fuel pool. The stunning divergence between Washington and Tokyo led that day to widespread media ridicule of Japanese authorities.

[There is] an increasing credibility gap in terms of what the Japanese government is saying\*

\*From transcript of CNN broadcast



????????????????????????????????????

It is well known that Jaczko turned out to be wrong.

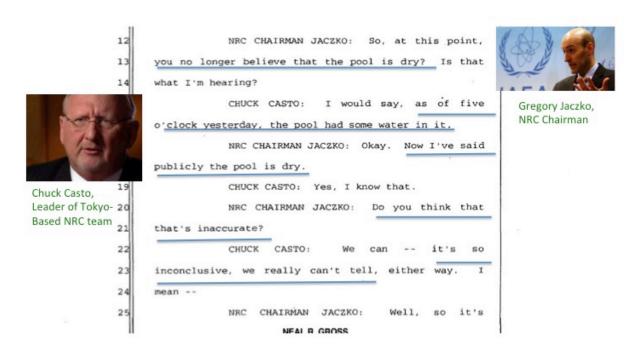
The pool was full of water all along. The NRC publicly admitted this in mid-June 2011, three months after Jaczko's testimony.

<u>This</u> episode got very little attention in the foreign media.

????????????????????????????????	??????????????????????????	?????3????????????????2(	)11?6??????????
???			
??????????????????????????????????????			

Much more outrageous is what I found in documents I examined.

Transcripts of NRC conference calls show
that on the evening of March 16, within hours of his testimony,
Jaczko was informed of doubt about his assertions.



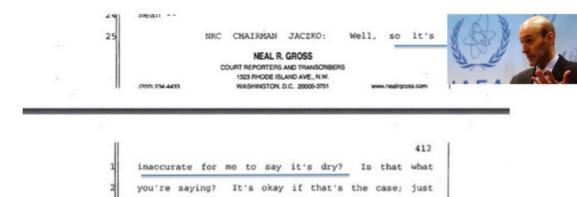
???NRC???????????????????????

???:????????????????????????????????

????:?????????

???:????????????????

(????????)





inaccurate for me to say it's dry? Is that what you're saying? It's okay if that's the case; just tell me.

CHUCK CASTO: I would say it's probably inaccurate to say it's dry.

NRC CHAIRMAN JACZKO: Okay.

CHUCK CASTO: It appears today, with the video, that they had had some water in it at five

(????????)

????:?????????????????????????

???:??????

The honorable thing for Jaczko to do would be to tell the news media immediately about the doubt concerning his statement. If he had done so, he could have minimized damage to Japanese government credibility. He didn't, however.

The transcript shows that he was worried about preserving his own credibility.

```
MARTY VIRGILIO: I'm still good with No.
     1.
                 NRC CHAIRMAN JACZKO: Okay. But we're not
     necessarily good with the statement that the pool is
                 MARTY VIRGILIO: Well, that's not, you
11
     know, our four points don't speak to the pool being
12
13
                 NRC CHAIRMAN JACZKO: Right, right. No, I
14
     know, but they speak to my credibility. That's the
15
     problem.
16
                 MARTY VIRGI
17
     where that statement cam
                                        came from TEPCO to
18
     John Monager yesterday.
                 NRC CHAIRMAN JACZKO:
19
                                         Okay, that's the
```

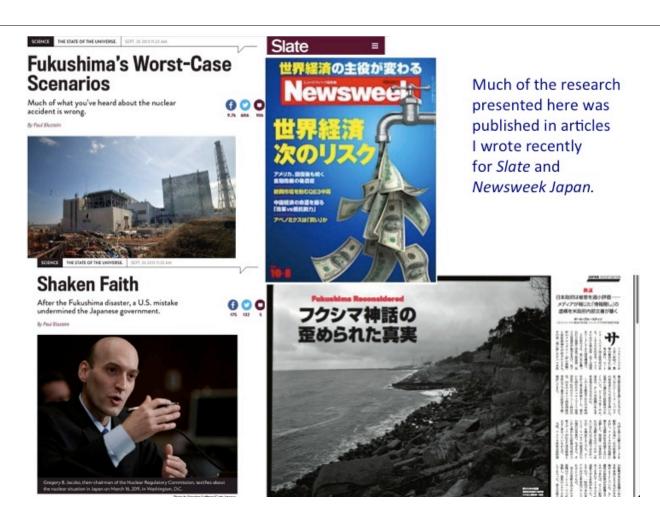
???????????????????????????????????

???:????????????????????????????????

## What was the impact of Jaczko's statement about the spent fuel pool?

- How much did it affect the Japanese government's credibility with the media?—and ultimately, how much did it affect Japanese media coverage of Fukushima?
- How much did it affect the Japanese government's credibility with the public?—and ultimately, how much did it contribute to emotional stress among Japanese who now feel they can't believe official assurances about safety?
- The answer to these questions is impossible to determine with any precision. Japanese officials did a poor job of communicating, and deserve plenty of blame for the erosion of trust.
- Surely, however, the impact of Jaczko's statement must have been substantial. It is hard to imagine any single blow so devastating to public faith in Japanese official pronouncements.
- If so, this episode also merits more attention than it has received.

????32
? ????????????????????????????
? ?????????????????????????????????????
? ????????????????????????????????????
? ????????????????????????????????????
? ?????????????????????????????????????
???????????????????????????????????????



???????????????????????????????

?Fukushima's Worst-Case Scenarios-Much of what you've heard about the nuclear accident is wrong?

?How a US mistake after Fukushima hurt Japan?

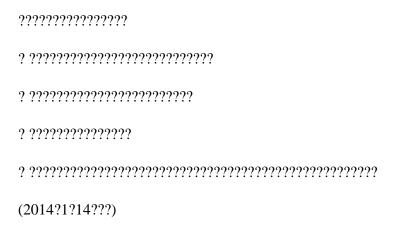
### A few conclusions...

- Japanese media gave Tokyo residents better information about their safety in March 2011 than did foreign media.
- Tokyo was never in danger, at least based on the best science available concerning the worst-case scenario. Claims by antinuclear activists that Tokyo came perilously close to evacuation are without merit.
- The fact that the media has ignored the US government's worst-case scenario is evidence of how bad Fukushima coverage has been (especially in the case of media that hyped the "devil's chain reaction").
- My former colleagues in the foreign media did a grave disservice to Japan. So did a top official of my government. They should be held accountable.

????34
? ?????????????????????????????????????
? ????????????????????????????????????
? ????????????????????????????????????
?2011?3????????????????????????????
???????

#### So: Which is better?

- A skeptical media that warns you too much of potential dangers, or...
- a passive media that doesn't warn you enough?
- · To repeat: neither is good
- But in this case, the media that overstated the dangers has been guilty of much worse than the media that understated them



This entry was posted on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014 at 2:00 pm and is filed under ?????????, ??? You can follow any responses to this entry through the Comments (RSS) feed. Responses are currently closed, but you can trackback from your own site.