



NFLA media release, 3 July 2023, For immediate use

Cover up? Did atom bosses collude to 'manage message' of Japanese plan to poison Pacific?

Disturbing documentary evidence has been seen by the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities which appears to suggest collusion between the Japanese nuclear industry, government ministries and the UN International Atomic Energy Authority to 'manage the message' over the ocean dumping of 1.3 million tonnes of radioactive water held over from the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

The purported IAEA-letterheaded document titled 'IAEA REVISION PROPOSAL FOR THE FINAL REPORT OF HANDLING ALPS TREATED WATER AT TEPCO'S FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION' may not sound very exciting, but, if genuine, amounts to a clear admission that the international agency has been keen to collaborate at the highest level with the Japanese nuclear industry and ministry officials to downplay the dangers associated with discharging millions of barrels of water which remain contaminated with highly toxic tritium.

The document, seemingly issued by the Department of Nuclear Safety at the IAEA, was posted to the website/blogsite [dunrenard](#) by an anonymous whistle-blower on 28 June 2023 and then forwarded to renowned marine radiation expert and campaigner Tim Deere-Jones, who brought it to the NFLA's attention. In response to the release of the document, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi has condemned it as a 'forgery'. This document can be found at the end of this media release.

Operated by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the Fukushima Plant was hit by an earthquake and a tsunami on 11 March 2011. A disaster unfolded with three nuclear meltdowns, three hydrogen explosions and a release of radiation from three reactors, and Government authorities were forced to evacuate 154,000 people from the surrounding area over a 20-mile radius.

Since the disaster, seawater water used to cool the destroyed reactors, along with rain- and groundwater that has leached into the damaged plant, has accumulated on site with over 1.3 million tons now being stored in barrels. Last year, the Japanese government confirmed its intention to build an underwater pipe 1km out to sea to discharge the radioactive water there, and now this work has been completed the dumping is scheduled to begin imminently, despite massive domestic and international opposition.

Opponents are fearful that although the contaminated water is treated by a process known as ALPS (the Advanced Liquid Processing System) this cannot remove deadly tritium, a beta-emitting radioactive isotope of hydrogen, and other radioactive materials, which if ingested can trigger cancers and appeals to stop this process citing the health risks and environmental damage that will result have been expressed by the local fishing and farming community, civic leaders, the Pacific Islands Council, regional governments, and anti-nuclear activists everywhere.

The NFLA has itself objected in letters to Japanese Ministers, TEPCO officials and the United Nations on two occasions and recently signed a partnership agreement with its Japanese equivalent, Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan, in part to collaborate in opposing the plan.

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In the released document, the IAEA supports the discharge of the radioactive *water 'even though the activity concentrations of some radionuclides above the [permitted] discharge limits are reported'* and agrees not to conduct a full radioactive analysis of every batch of the water held *'due to the concerns of [operator] TEPCO and relevant authorities [the Japanese Government]'*.

More worryingly, the report clearly advises that *'data and results that could be viewed negatively by the public should be removed from the final report'* and that IAEA Director General Raphael Grossi has instructed that *'positive conclusions supporting ALPS treated water discharging shall be included in the executive summary of the Final Report'*.

The NFLA's source was Mr Tim Deere-Jones, a graduate in Marine Studies from Cardiff University. Tim, an independent marine pollution researcher and consultant since 1983, is highly regarded by the many international organisations who have engaged him in their campaigns against the damage caused to our oceans and inland waterways by radioactive and other contaminants. Amongst his recent notable achievements, Mr Deere-Jones provided an invaluable professional advice to the successful Greenlandic campaign to ban the mining of Uranium and Rare Earths at Kuannersuit, which led to his report being translated into Kalaallisut, the official Inuit based language of Greenland.

Here Tim gives his analysis of the alleged IAEA document:

'Documentary evidence of deep collusion between the IAEA, Japanese Government Ministries and TEPCO intended to suppress, "fudge" and spin evidence related to the scientific data related to the treatment, monitoring and sea-discharge of ALPS treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi disaster site.

Preliminary analysis:

Language of origin of the document is uncertain, the extent English language copy appears to have been either translated from the original or compiled by someone with English as a second language.

The document reports that the original draft "Notional Plan for Source and Environmental Monitoring associated with IAEA LPS Safety Review" was presented to the Japanese government in March 2023, and that the original Notional Plan proposed that environmental monitoring of the ALPS treated water should be based on **"rapid analysis"** of all batches of treated water and **"full analysis"** of selected batches of treated water.

While it appears to be clear that the proposed "rapid analysis" would not have been as thorough or detailed as the proposed "full analysis", in the event the Document has confirmed that the Final Report has recommended the "rapid analysis" but that the "full analysis" of selected batches will not be recommended in the Final Report **"due to the concerns of TEPCO and relevant authorities"** (presumably the ministries of the Government of Japan).

The document confirms that, in May 2023, the IAEA's Director and Co-ordinator of Nuclear Safety & Security Department and the head of the IAEA's task force on the Fukushima releases, shared the IAEA's Draft Report on the releases with the GoJ (Government of Japan) and TEPCO officials.



The IAEA document notes that it's Draft Report on the handling of ALPS treated water concludes with the finding in favour of the proposed discharge of the treated water to sea **"even though the activity concentrations of some radionuclides above the discharge limits are reported"**

The document comments on "The public's captiousness on radioactivity issues". (*"Captiousness" is defined in dictionaries as "the disposition to find and point out trivial issues or faults"*)

In the context of the above the document recommends that **"data and results that could be viewed negatively by the public should be removed from the final report Issued in later June."**

The document reports that, following negotiations with the GoJ, IAEA Director General Grossi, instructed that **"positive conclusions supporting ALPS treated water discharging shall be included in the executive summary of the Final Report"**

And that **"the Final Report will highlight that TEPCO's discharge plan is in accord with international safety standards to address public concerns and doubts. The IAEA will conduct discussions with all task force experts, but their recommendations will not be reflected in the Report"**

The document confirms that the IAEA has agreed to make revisions to the Report on the basis of feedback from the Japanese Ministries of Economy/Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, Environment and TEPCO **because TEPCO and the Ministries had "expressed concerns regarding the potential public opposition to some data and results. The IAEA fully understands these concerns and would make revisions"**

The document reports that the GoJ **"requested to fudge"** responses to the Pacific Island Forum's demand for a full analysis of ALPS treated water, and questions raised by neighbouring countries about Organically Bound Tritium (OBT). In that context the document reports that, presumably in response to the request, **"the concerns were not included in the ALPS safety review"**

My submissions on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum

Despite the evidence reported above, the document confirms that the GoJ **"recommended to stress the fact that Japanese Authorities never interfered with IAEA's safety review"** and that **"the independence of the Report is guaranteed as no political elements involved"**



Commenting on the shocking revelations, Mr Deere-Jones said:

"Since the original Fukushima disaster, I have made multiple submissions to, and on behalf of, the Pacific Islands Forum, Japanese Citizens Groups, Environmental NGOs, and Commercial Fishermen's Associations. My submissions have repeatedly called for full analysis of the ALPS treated water and the sludges at the bottom of the ALPS treated water holding tanks, and referenced the peer reviewed scientific evidence demonstrating that marine Organically Bound Tritium posed a greater health risk through multiple dose delivery pathways than was recognised by the nuclear establishment (Japanese Govt ministries and agencies, TEPCO and the IAEA)".

In response to the release of this alleged document, Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi was quick to condemn it as a forgery and to refute any suggestion of Japanese government collusion, issuing the following statement to Associated Press:

"The IAEA is aware of the existence of the forged documents. The IAEA's comprehensive final report is a document prepared under the responsibility of the IAEA, and the Japanese government is not in a position to manipulate its contents. "I would like to stress that we are firmly opposed to any attempt to undermine the independence and neutrality of the IAEA with false information."

Tim Deere-Jones retorted: *"Such a response is exactly what we would expect from the IAEA when such information is leaked to the public. To suggest that the document is fraudulent is clearly intended to imply that concerned scientists, campaigners, marine stakeholders, and communities are implicated.*

"However, the matters disclosed in the leaked document are very much in accord with the experience of scientists and campaigners who have been raising these concerns since the Fukushima disaster and its subsequent botched response first occurred.

"Since that time, we have submitted numerous fully scientifically referenced documents highlighting the issue of Organically Bound Tritium, the multiple other radionuclides not removed from the ALPS treated water, the failure to discuss the radioactive solids that have settled on the bottom of the holding tanks, the behaviour and fate of these multiple radioactive materials once discharged to sea and their impact on marine ecologies and the health of coastal communities.

"The submission of such information has been consistently met by the IAEA and nuclear industry with hostility, contempt, dismissal, and a refusal to engage with the issues raised.

"The leaked document is on IAEA headed paper and typeface, bears the imprint of the relevant department, is couched in language characteristic of the IAEA, and refers to the 'The public's captiousness on radioactivity issues'; captiousness being defined in dictionaries as "the disposition to find and point out trivial issues or faults". Such language is a precise reflection of our long-term experience and understanding of the IAEA and nuclear industry attitude and response to our concerns.

"I would remind readers that the IAEA's Founding Statutes state that its principal objective is as follows 'The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy'."

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In conclusion, NFLA Chairman, Councillor Lawrence O'Neill said:

"The contents of this report, if true, are deeply disturbing and suggest a plan in which, at the highest level, officials from the international agency responsible for nuclear safety, the Japanese nuclear industry and the Japanese government have colluded to underplay the dangers posed to Pacific marine life and the world community by the expedient, but irresponsible, discharge of tritium-contaminated water.

"Most bitterly disappointing is that this document suggests that such a plan has the tacit endorsement of IAEA Director-General Grossi; for Mr Grossi is the man in which the world community has placed its faith to put safety before political considerations to prevent a nuclear disaster at the imperilled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine."

Ends: // ...

For further information about this media release please contact NFLA Secretary Richard Outram by email to richard.outram@manchester.gov.uk or telephone 07583097793

This media release can also be found on the NFLA website at:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/cover-up-did-atom-bosses-collude-to-manage-message-of-japanese-plan-to-poison-pacific/>

ⁱ <https://dunrenard.wordpress.com/2023/06/28/will-this-whistleblower-be-heard-by-anyone/>

ⁱⁱ <https://apnews.com/article/japan-fukushima-iaea-wastewater-release-b1645bee9eadd55ae8452d26e8af9833?fbclid=IwAR05vL5laYZ2IoRMWrm-0CBwLXmeiB66Zj78HHdmK7f0kTkn6Zq-htG5xiY>



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

IAEA Revision Proposal for the Final Report of Handling ALPS-Treated Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

1 June 2023

The IAEA finished the Draft Final Report of Handling ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) Treated Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) on 19 May. The conclusion points to a favourable finding for the discharge of ALPS Treated Water in this summer, even though activity concentrations of some radionuclides above the discharge limits are reported. Considering the public's captiousness, reliability of TEPCO and GOJ's capability for undertaking the safe discharge of ALPS treated water will be explained in the final report.

After IAEA's consultation with the Government of Japan (GOJ), data and results that could be viewed negatively by the public should be removed. After approval from the Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, the final report will be issued in later June.

Final Conclusions and Findings

The report includes Introduction, Safety Principles, IAEA Safety Guides and References. Based on the instruction from the Director General Grossi, who had negotiated with GOJ before, positive conclusion supporting ALPS treated water discharging shall be included in the Executive Summary. The Final report will highlight that TEPCO's discharge plan is in accordance with International Safety Standards to address public concerns and doubts. The IAEA will conduct discussion with all Task Force experts, but their recommendations will not be reflected in the report.

Opinions from TEPCO and relevant Japanese authorities

Gustavo Caruso, Director and Coordinator for the ALPS Safety Review, and Erik Freeman, Programme Officer of the IAEA department of Nuclear Safety and Security visited Japan on 22 May and provided the draft of the final report to GOJ. The IAEA will make revisions considering the feedback from high-level officials of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and TEPCO. TEPCO and relevant Japanese authorities expressed concerns regarding the potential public opposition to some data and results. The IAEA fully understands these concerns and would make revisions.



- GOJ recommended to mention the IAEA's International Safety Standards were approved by 176 countries in the report, and the IAEA agreed to highlight the fact that handling of ALPS Treated Water and the IAEA ALPS Safety Review are in compliance with the International Safety Standards.
- Pacific Island Forum (PIF) required full analyses of ALPS treated water in all tanks, and neighbouring countries raised questions on organically bound tritium (OBT) detection. Considering GOJ required to fudge related issues in the report, hence above concerns were not included in the ALPS safety review.
- Some Task Force experts raised questions about standards applied to the safety review of FDNPS reactors and ordinary reactors. GOJ recommend IAEA to indicate that they adopted the same standards.
- GOJ had concerns with discrepancies between laboratories, and it recommended to adjust the criteria. The IAEA sets 1% as the respective regulatory limits for all radionuclides to avoid negative views of the public to the largest extent. Also, the IAEA makes it clear that significant discrepancies would not affect the later discharge of ALPS treated water because it was for the GOJ to make the decision..
- GOJ recommended to stress the fact that Japanese authorities never interfered with IAEA's safety review. The independence of the report is guaranteed as no political elements involved.

Notional Plan for Source and Environmental Monitoring Associated with IAEA ALPS Safety Review

The IAEA provided *Notional Plan for Source and Environmental Monitoring Associated with IAEA ALPS Safety Review* to GOJ in March 2023. The IAEA proposed a twofold approach for source monitoring based on "rapid" analyses of all batches and "full" analyses of selected batches. Rapid analyses would be carried out by Agency laboratories only, and the participation of multiple third-party laboratories is foreseen for full analyses. In this context, the IAEA is conducting rapid analyses for less time required, but the twofold approach will not be included in the report due to the concerns of TEPCO and relevant Japanese authorities.

Additional Budget

Environmental monitoring under the ALPS safety review is time-consuming and of great difficulty. Therefore, Additional budget of one million euros should be provided by GOJ since 850 000 euros provided before has been used up. Japanese authorities hold a negative attitude towards this request, and the IAEA noted that it would issue the final report and conduct monitoring after GOJ's approval and disbursement of the additional budget.

