

Additional Review By M. D. Campbell and Associates, L.P.

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Key to Comments:

Black = Original Article Content

Yellow = Particular Offending words or phrases

Red = C&A Mining Group Comments

Article in Question:



Tuesday, 17 Jul 2007

A Barrel of Gaffes

Earthquake **causes nuclear headaches** in Japan

[Sensationalized Headline, minor leaks only]

by Aileen Mioko Smith (Green Action)

A strong earthquake hit northwestern Japan yesterday morning, and aftershocks continued into the night. The 6.8-magnitude quake killed at least nine people, injured more than 900 others, and flattened houses and highways. **It also led to a fire, leak, and waste spills at a powerful nuclear plant.**

[Reasonable statement but why didn't they mention leaking gas tanks, gasoline lines, sewer lines, all of which can kill?]

The Kashiwazaki Kariwa facility, which produces the most electricity of any nuclear plant in the world, shut down during the event, but not before a transformer caught on fire **and a reactor ruptured**, sending about 315 gallons of radioactive water into the sea.

[Author makes major mistake in reporting. There was no rupture in the reactor...only low-level fluid leaks away from the reactor, and some storage barrels tipped over that leaked].

The trembling also **toppled at least 100 barrels of nuclear waste stored on site. Company officials delayed, then downplayed news of the damage, saying there was little environmental risk.**

[Maybe delayed because there were no serious concerns]

But **others** in the country, which is home to 55 nuclear reactors, were left **feeling uneasy**.

[Who? No identities provided...possibly made up] unspecified "others" likely fabricated by author].

Weakness in the face of quakes is, said Aileen Mioko Smith of the Japan-based eco-group **Green Action**, "the **Achilles heel of nuclear power plants.**" **Or one of them, anyway.**

[Green Action's engineering credentials are unknown. The question arises as to what do they (and the author) know about engineering a nuclear plant to withstand

typical quakes? Ms. Smith is spouting generalizations without providing any supporting evidence to back up such statements for the reader. Grist should not be distributing articles with such poor reporting].

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