

Fukushima Didn't Just Suffer Three Meltdowns ... The Nuclear Core Has Finally Been Found ... Scattered All Over Japan

It Also Suffered "Melt-Throughs" and "Melt-outs"

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

We reported in May 2011 that [authorities knew – within days or weeks](#) – that [all 3 active Fukushima nuclear reactors had melted down](#), but covered up that fact for months.

The next month, we reported that Fukushima's reactors had actually suffered something much worse: [nuclear melt-throughs](#), where the nuclear fuel melted through the containment vessels and into the ground. At the time, this was [described](#) as:

The worst possibility in a nuclear accident.

But now, it turns out that some of the Fukushima reactors have suffered even a more extreme type of damage: melt-OUTS.

By way of background, we've noted periodically that scientists have [no idea where the cores of the nuclear reactors are](#).

And that [highly radioactive black "dirt"](#) has been found all over Japan.

It turns out that the highly radioactive black substances are likely remnants of the core.

The Journals [Environmental Science & Technology](#) and [Journal of Environmental Radioactivity](#) both found (hat tip [EneNews](#)) that the highly radioactive black substances [match fuel from the core of the Fukushima reactors](#).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [agrees](#).

Indeed, "hot particles" with extremely high levels of radiation – [7 billion](#), [40 billion](#) , and even [40 billion billion](#) Bq/kg – have been found [all over the Fukushima region](#), and hundreds of miles away ... [in Tokyo](#).

Let's put this in perspective. The Atlantic [notes](#):

Japanese regulations required nuclear waste with 100 or more bq/kg of Cesium to be monitored and disposed of in specialized containers.

The new government limit for material headed for landfills is 8000 bq/kg, 80 times the pre-Fukushima limit.

So the hottest hot particle found so far is [5 million billion](#) times greater than the current government limits of what can be put in a landfill.

In other words, the core of at least one of the Fukushima reactors has finally been found ... scattered all over Japan.

Nothing like this has ever before happened before.

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