

Fukushima, Six Years Later: Nuclear Radiation and the Global Impacts of The Fukushima-Daichii Disaster

Conversations with Gordon Edwards and Arnie Gundersen. Global Research News Hour Episode 174

By [Arnie Gundersen](#), [Gordon Edwards](#), and [Michael Welch](#)

Global Research, March 18, 2017

Region: [Asia](#), [Canada](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#), [Oil and Energy](#)

"All of the radiation-related fatalities...and injuries, are being written off as 'stress.' So, my big takeaway is the inhumanity of how the Japanese and how Tokyo Electric are treating their own people." - Arnie Gundersen (From this week's interview)

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The Global Research News Hour continues its commemoration of the March 2011 Fukushima Daichii nuclear disaster with two interviews addressing the state of the nuclear industry six years later.

In the first half hour, we focus our attention on Canada, the [eighth largest nuclear power in the world](#) in terms of number of operating reactors.

Canada, of course, claims to only apply the technology for peaceful purposes, consistent with its commitments under the [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). However, as pointed out by **Helen Caldicott** in [a past program](#), Canada is not only a leading exporter of uranium, it exports CANDU reactors which are efficient producers of weapons-grade plutonium. Canada's reactors are, to quote Caldicott, "bomb and cancer factories."

Gordon Edwards, a long-time observer and leading critic of Canada's nuclear sector, discusses the country's nuclear history and the institutional and other incentives behind developing the industry. He also addresses concerns about whether existing international nuclear agreements in the age of Donald Trump, ties the hands of Canadians seeking release from nuclear's deadly embrace.

In the latter part of the program, we hear from renowned nuclear expert and educator **Arnie Gundersen**. Mr. Gundersen challenges assertions from the industry both in Canada and the U.S. about the safety of their reactors. He also shares lessons learned from his visit last year to Japan and what they tell us about the accountability of Japanese authorities.

Gundersen also speaks to documentation in the days immediately following the meltdowns

from the U.S. National Regulatory Commission, describing a nightmare scenario involving one of the Fukushima Daichii facility's spent fuel pools.

Gordon Edwards is president and co-founder of the [Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility](#). A consultant on nuclear issues and court-qualified nuclear expert, he has authored articles on the topics of radiation standards, uranium mining, nuclear proliferation and the economics of nuclear power. He is recipient of the 2006 Nuclear-Free Future Award, the Rosalie Bertell Lifetime Achievement Award, and YMCA Peacemaker Medallion. His organization's website is [ccnr.org](#)

Arnie Gundersen is one of the directors of [Fairewinds Energy Education](#) and a nuclear engineer with over 44 years of experience in the industry. He holds a nuclear safety patent, was a licensed reactor operator, and has coordinated projects at 70 nuclear power plants in the US. His organization's website is [fairewinds.org](#).

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