

Japan Reacts to Worsening Fukushima Disaster By ... Reopening Nuclear Plant Next to Active Volcano

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Oil and Energy](#)

Scientists [warned](#) that an earthquake could take out Fukushima. The Japanese [ignored the warning ... and even tore down the natural seawall which protected Fukushima from tidal waves](#).

Fukushima is [getting worse](#). And see [this](#) and [this](#).

Have the Japanese learned their lesson? Are they decommissioning nuclear plants which are built in dangerous environments?

Of course not!

Instead, they're re-starting a nuclear plant near a volcano which is about to blow ...

A month ago, there was an eruption at Mt. Ontake:



Screenshot from [Youtube Video](#) shot on September 29th of Mount erupting. 57 hikers were killed by the explosion



But – as Newsweek [reports](#) – a nuclear plant only 40 miles away will be re-started anyway:

Local officials have voted to reopen a nuclear plant in Japan, despite warnings of increased volcanic activity in the region from scientists.

The decision comes despite a warning on Friday that Japan's Seismological Agency had documented an increase of activity in the Ioyama volcano, located 40 miles away from the power station.

Sendai will become the first Japanese nuclear plant to reopen in since 2011.

However the decision comes as scientific authorities warned of increased seismic activity on the island. **Volcanologists have warned that the 2011 earthquake, which measured 9.0 on the Richter scale, may have increased the likelihood of volcanic activity throughout the region.** [[Background.](#)]

The Sendai plant is also situated only 31 miles from Mount Sakurajima,

an **extremely active volcano which erupts on a regular basis.**

The documentation of new activity comes barely a month after the eruption of Mount Ontake, when 57 hikers were killed on its slopes. There were no accompanying signs of seismic activity prior to the eruption which might have alerted Japanese authorities to the impending disaster.

The vote has been seen as an attempt to resurrect the country's nuclear industry, which the Japanese government hopes to restart despite **public opposition to nuclear energy in the wake of the Fukushima disaster.**

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) approved Sendai's safety features in September, but the plant must still pass operational safety checks before it will be able to reopen.

What could possibly go wrong?

[Here's a hint:](#)

A cauldron eruption at one of several volcanoes surrounding the Sendai nuclear power plant **could hit the reactors and cause a nationwide disaster**, said Toshitsugu Fujii, **head of a government-commissioned panel** on volcanic eruption prediction.

Ene News [explains:](#)

[Wall St Journal](#), Oct. 23, 2014 (emphasis added): One major volcanic **eruption could make Japan "extinct,"** a study by experts at Kobe University warns... "We should be aware... **It wouldn't be a surprise** if such gigantic eruption were to take place **at any moment.**"

[Japan Times](#), Oct. 24, 2014: Colossal volcanic **eruption could destroy Japan at any time:** study — Japan could be nearly destroyed by a volcanic eruption over the next century that **would put nearly all of its population of 127 million people at risk...** "It is not an overstatement to say that a colossal volcanic eruption **would leave Japan extinct as a country,**" Kobe University earth sciences professor Yoshiyuki Tatsumi and associate professor Keiko Suzuki said... A disaster on Kyushu... would see **an area with 7 million people buried** by flows of lava and molten rock **in just two hours [and] making nearly the entire country "unlivable"...** It would be **"hopeless" trying to save about 120 million...**

[Japan Times](#), Oct. 24, 2014: **Volcano near Sendai nuclear plant is shaking and may erupt... Authorities warned** on Friday that a **volcano a few dozen kilometers from the Sendai nuclear plant... may erupt.** It **warned people to stay away...** Ioyama [shows] **signs of rising volcanic activity** recently, including **atremor lasting** as long as **seven minutes...** the Meteorological Agency's volcano division said... [T]he **area around the crater is dangerous,** he added... On Friday, the warning level for the Sakurajima volcano was at 3, which means people should not approach the peak... Experts warn [the] earthquake in March 2011 may have **increased the risk of volcanic activity throughout the nation...**

[Japan Times](#), Oct 18, 2014: Sendai **reactors vulnerable to eruptions [and]**

could cause a nationwide disaster, said Toshitsugu Fujii, University of Tokyo professor emeritus who **heads a government-commissioned panel**... [R]egulators ruled out a major eruption... [Fujii] said at best an eruption can be predicted only a matter of hours or days. Studies have shown that pyroclastic flow... at one of the volcanos near the Sendai plant... reached as far as 145 kilometers away, Fujii said. He said a **pyroclastic flow** from Mount Sakurajima... **could easily hit the nuclear plant**, which is only 40 kilometers away. Heavy ash falling from an eruption would make it impossible to reach the plant... he said. **Many nuclear power plants could be affected**...

[Asahi Shimbun](#), May 12, 2014: Now is the time to rethink the risk of operating nuclear power plants... it is the first time that Japan has seriously evaluated... the danger posed by volcanoes... **Nuclear power plants... would suffer devastating damage** from catastrophic eruptions... **radioactive materials will continue to be scattered throughout the world**...

[University of Tokyo professor Toshitsugu Fujii](#), head of government panel on eruption prediction: "Scientifically, **they're not safe**... If [reactors] still need to be restarted... it's for political reasons, not because they're safe, and **you should be honest about that.**"

Postscript: The [U.S. isn't much better](#). Moreover, the U.S. is [forcing Japan to re-start](#) it's nuclear reactors ... and the U.S. [almost wholly controls](#) Japanese nuclear policy.

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