

The only health effects suffered from the reactor meltdowns continue to be from stress, depression, and fear.

Before the accident, Japan's nuclear fleet had provided 30 percent of the country's electricity needs, but within 14 months of the accident Japan's nuclear generation was brought to a standstill pending regulatory change. Nine units have been restarted, while 17 reactors are currently in the process of gaining restart approval.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation found that there had been no deaths, and probably never will be, from radiation that escaped from Fukushima.

We have been trying for decades to convince the governments of the world and their populations that fear-driven overreaction to radiation has more severe consequences than the radiation itself. The noise from non-scientists and ideologues, however, drowns out the science, so the public doesn't know what to believe.

I don't know what to do when support of science begins to crumble in those societies where it was always strong. We should be very concerned.

James Conca is a scientist in the field of the earth and environmental sciences, specializing in geologic disposal of nuclear waste, energy-related research, planetary surface processes, radiobiology and shielding for space colonies, and subsurface transport and environmental cleanup of heavy metals. Conca also writes about nuclear, the environment, and energy for Forbes; you can view his stories online at forbes.com/sites/jamesconca.



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