

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why we must pay attention to Ukraine

Ukraine has 15 nuclear power plants, including one in Zaporizhzhia which is one of the world's largest and located a mere 120 miles from one of the front lines.

Stray bombardment, power outages and vibrations from tanks and heavy artillery could disrupt back-up generators and cooling infrastructures would likely fail.

Approaching Russian military forces would likely force key nuclear plant personnel to flee, resulting in a potential catastrophic nuclear meltdown of one or more nuclear reactors as we have previously witnessed with isolated incidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima.

With a nuclear plant meltdown there could be a massive release of deadly caesium-137 which could spread worldwide. Acute radiation sickness and a large number of deaths is likely to ensue, as well as a significant increase in cancers for those lucky to survive.

The plume of Caesium -137 would also contaminate crops and drinking water supplies resulting in additional health harms. If clean up were possible, the cost would be enormous as Chernobyl has taught

us and radioactive elements can persist for many years.

The world has never experienced a war that threatens nuclear plants.

We need to avert all-out war and we certainly don't need any more nuclear plants.

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