

Reconsideration of the DBEGM and seismic safety of nuclear power plants: Query against the Tokyo District Court's ruling related to the 2011 Fukushima meltdown

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On September 19, 2019, in the ruling that judged three former executives of Tokyo Electric Power Company were not guilty of professional negligence in the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, the Tokyo District Court referred to an article in the Regulatory Guide for Reviewing Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Reactor Facilities (decided by the Nuclear Safety Commission in September 2006) and said that extremely high-degree seismic safety had not been required regarding nuclear power plants. This is a serious remark leading to disrespect for the nuclear power safety.

The Tokyo District Court's interpretation of the Regulatory Guide is clearly wrong because the Guide says in the Commentary on the Basic Policy as follows: This policy is equal to the 'basic policy' in Former Guide which is required to the seismic design with the provision of 'nuclear power reactor facilities shall maintain seismic integrity against any postulated seismic force assumed so sufficiently that no earthquake would induce significant accidents.'

In my talk I will also discuss the current regulatory requirements by the Nuclear Regulation Authority.

Keywords: nuclear power plants, seismic safety, DBEGM, Tokyo District Court's ruling, Fukushima NPP accident