

**Waseda Institute of Medical
Anthropology on Disaster
Reconstruction (WIMA)
symposium: “Anthropology of
Tribulation and Hope from
Fukushima”**

Day 1: Sunday October 9, 2022

***SUDDEN EXILE, SUDDEN WEALTH,
THEN ENVY AND DISCRIMINATION:
THE SUFFERING OF FUKUSHIMA'S
COMPULSORY EVACUEES***

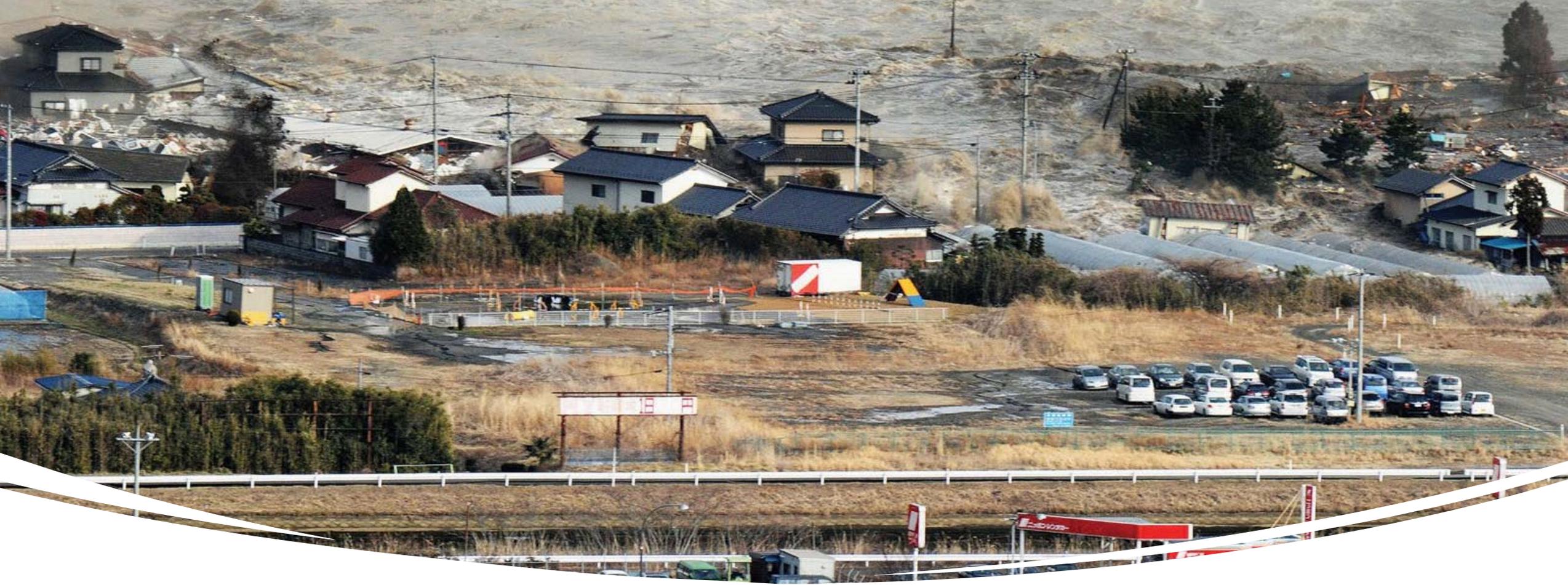
Tom Gill

Meiji Gakuin University

The Disaster



Strike 1: Earthquake



Strike 2

Giant Tsunami

Strike 3

Nuclear Meltdown



To greatly oversimplify:

The tsunami was a natural disaster (*tensai*).

The nuclear meltdowns were a manmade disaster (*jinsai*).

Natural disasters tend to bring people together, since all have been afflicted by a force of nature beyond human control.

Manmade disasters tend to force people apart, as issue of responsibility and compensation lead to mistrust and anger.

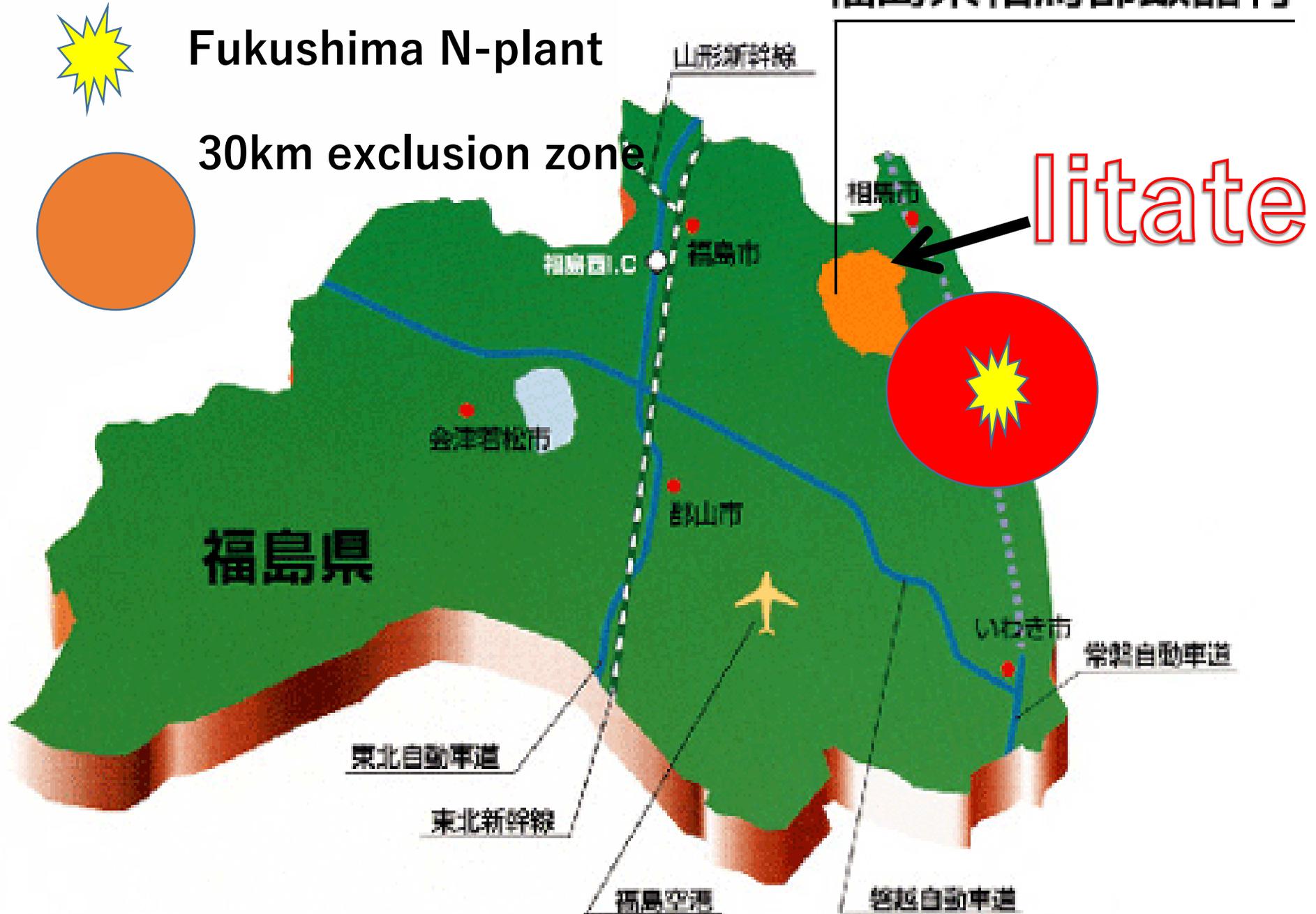
The first split following the 3.11 Disasters

Nearly 20,000 people died in the tsunami.

Almost nobody has been definitively proved to have died as a result of the meltdowns.

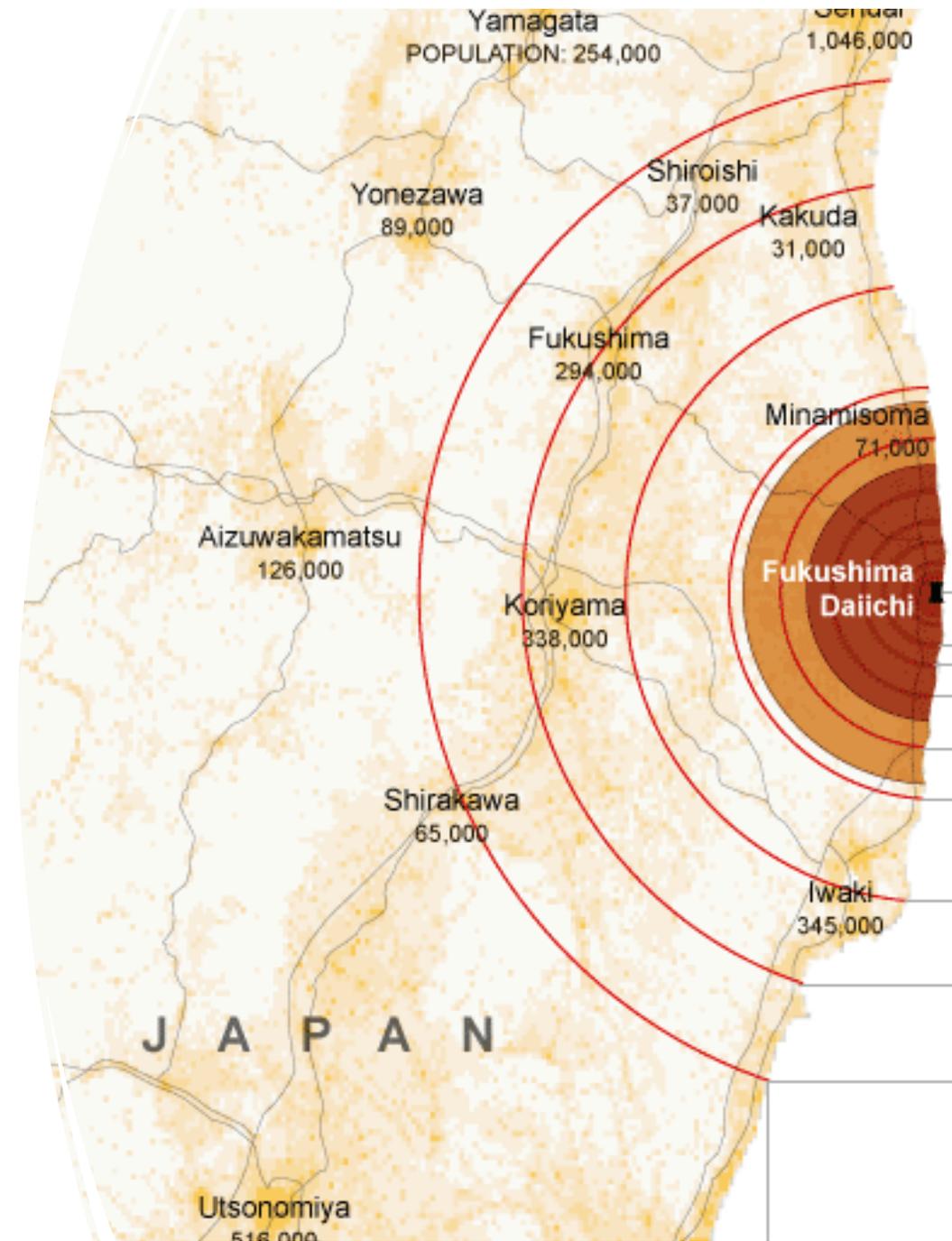
Yet the amount of compensation paid to nuclear disaster victims has been far greater than the amount paid to tsunami victims: because there was clearly someone responsible: Tokyo Electric Power Company and the government with its reckless policy of promoting nuclear power in a country prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, typhoons etc.

福島県相馬郡飯舘村



Lines on the map

Where the lines are drawn has fateful consequences. The government assumed, with no basis in fact, that radiation would spread out in a neat, round pattern and evacuated settlements accordingly.



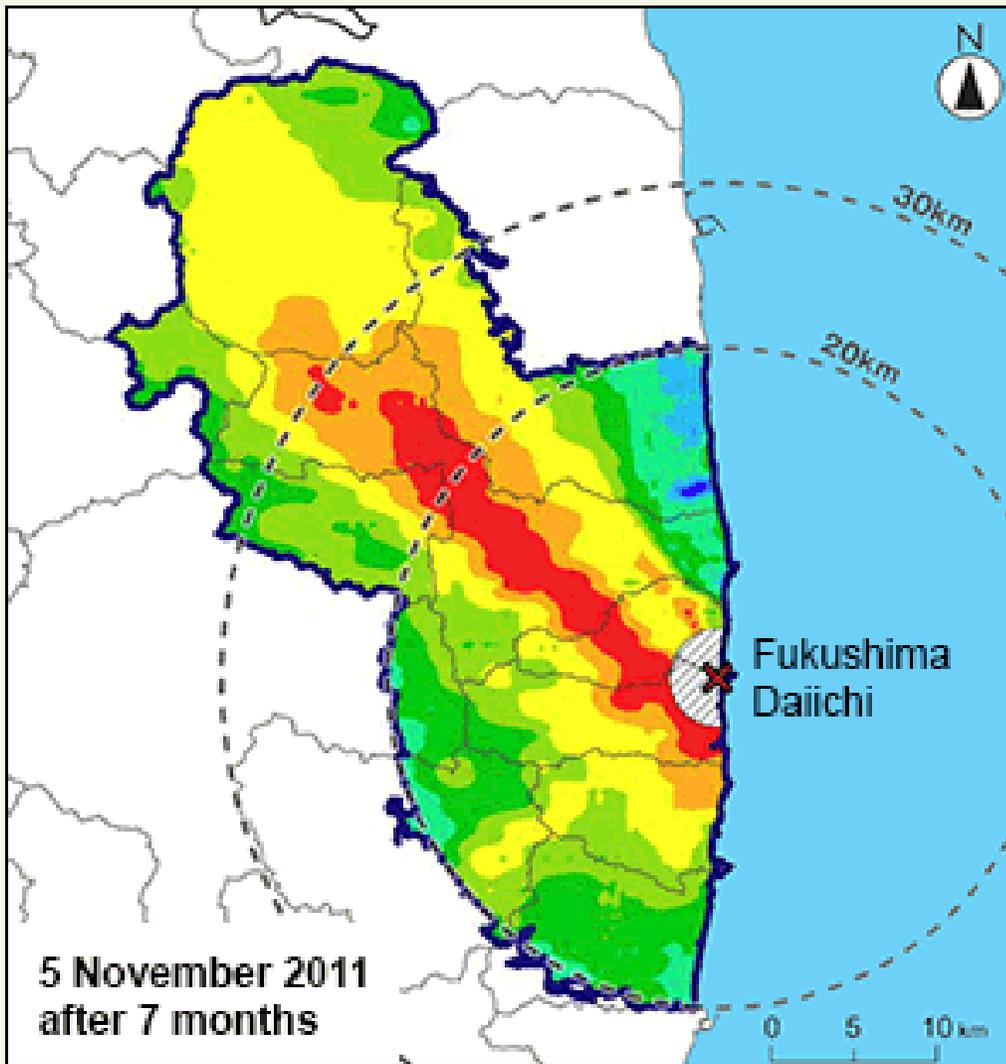
Outside the line

litate village was just outside the government's 30km line, so was not evacuated immediately.

**Reality
grudgingly
acknowledged...
80 days later.**

**Fukushima isotopes
and their half lives:
Iodine-131 (8 days)
Caesium-134 (2 years)
Caesium-137 (30 years)**

Radiation Decline in Evacuation Area



Key
Radiation level 1m above ground, including background (μSv/h)

Red	19.0 <
Orange	9.5 - 19.0
Yellow	3.8 - 9.5
Light Green	1.9 - 3.8
Green	1.0 - 1.9
Light Blue	0.5 - 1.0
Blue	0.2 - 0.5
Dark Blue	0.1 - 0.2
Dark Blue	≤ 0.1
Hatched	Not measured

Source: Nuclear Regulation Authority
Animation and translation: World Nuclear Association

きな田舎”ロマンのある白石

てみんなが楽しめるイベントを。

ペア17

成です。

飯樋町

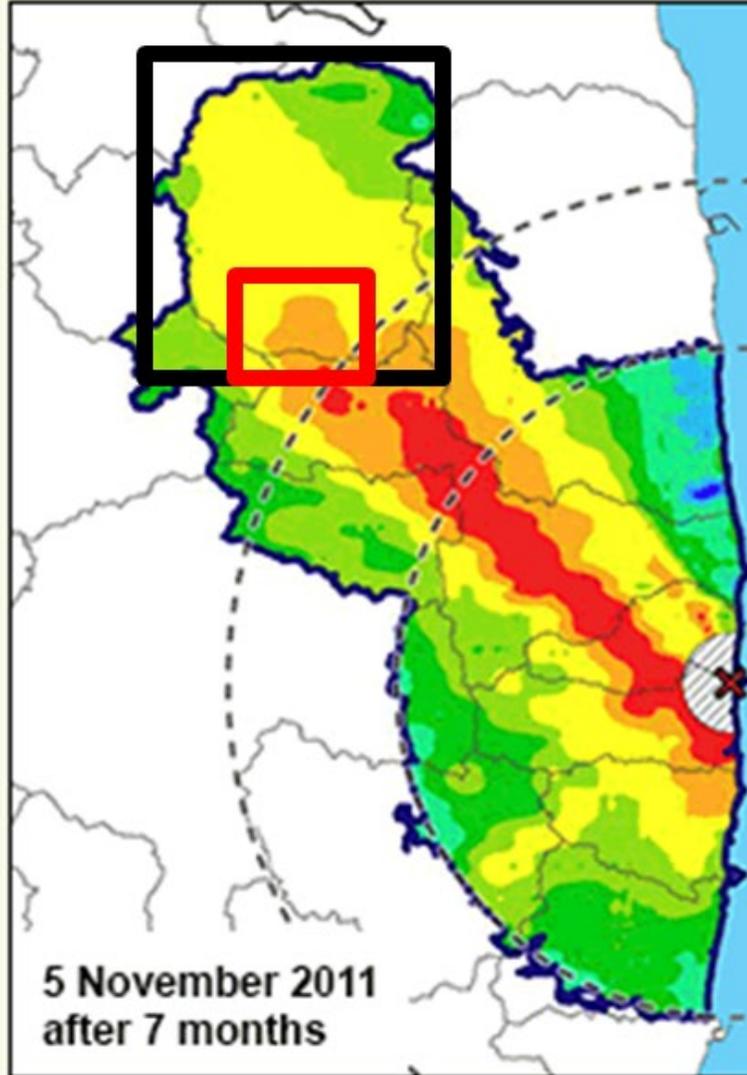


Hiso
比曾

Nagadoro
長泥

Warabi-daira
蕨平

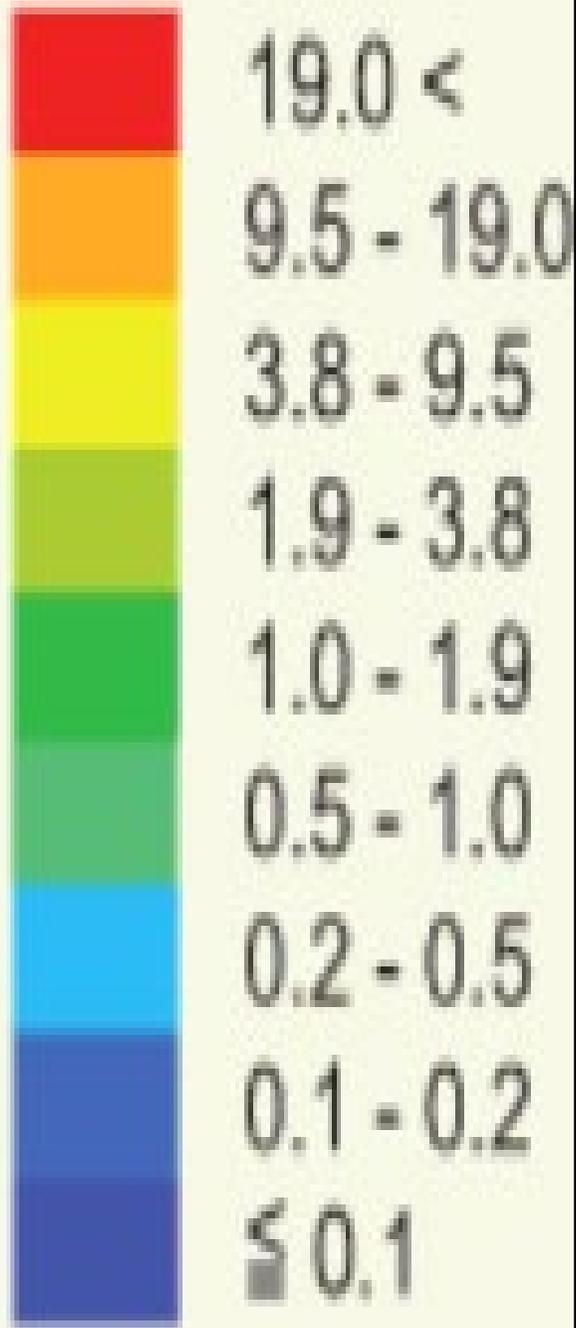
Radiation Decline in Evacuation Area



Source: Nuclear Regulation Authority
Animation and translation: World Nuclear Association

**Black box:
Iitate village**

**Red box:
Nagadoro hamlet**



Radiation zoning

**Hard-to-return district (*kikan konnan kuiki*):
Over 50 millisieverts a year**

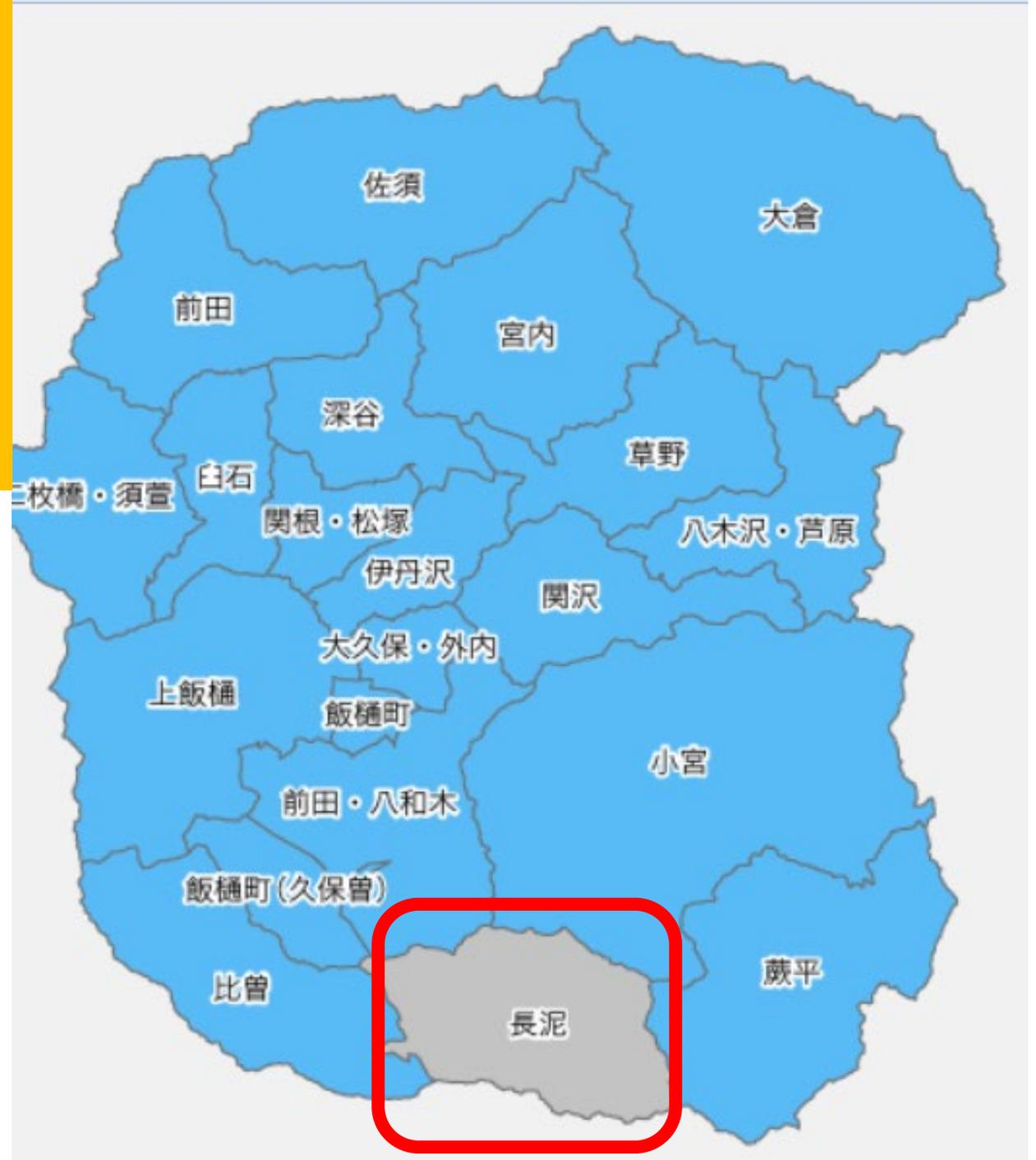
Restricted residence district (*kyoju seigen kuiki*): 20~50mSV a year

Return preparation districts (*hinan kaijo junbi kuiki*): less than 20mSv a year

(All dates as of June 2012)

30 March 2017: evacuation order lifted: for 19 of the 20 settlements in Iitate village

Only Nagadoro remains off-limits
(Ministry of Environment home page)



*Nagadoro alone is
barricaded...*



... but also unusually well compensated.

Estimates based on data from the Nuclear Power Compensation Dispute Committee (Genshiryoku Songai Baishō Funsō Shinsakai) indicate that the average family of four in the evacuation zone has so far received 130 million yen in the low radiation districts, and about 150 million yen in the high radiation districts (Ōe 2015).

Most of the households in Nagadoro received over ¥100 million, and a few received over ¥200 million.

The other settlements in Iitate look upon Nagadoro people *not with pity but with envy.*

‘As odd as it may sound, those in the Fukushima area whose losses are legally considered to have been caused by the nuclear accident are perhaps the most “fortunate” of the large pool of people who suffered, and continue to suffer, in the aftermath of the 3/11 disaster.’

Feldman, Eric, “Compensating the Victims of Japan’s Fukushima Disaster.” *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal*, 16 (2), 2015, pp127–157.

Concealed emotions

- **Even if they did in fact feel happy about their sudden riches, the people of Nagadoro could not express that openly to the people around them.**
- **To feel oneself 'fortunate' because of sudden wealth resulting from radioactive contamination of your hometown (furusato) is to smash a powerful taboo. You are supposed to love your furusato, and to feel sorrow at being separated from it, even if you are now living in as nice big house in Fukushima city.**

Divisions

How the lines on the map divide people

- 1. Voluntary vs Compulsory evacuees**
- 2. Well compensated districts vs poorly-compensated districts**
- 3. Property owners vs those without property**
- 4. Members of the same family: who controls the compensation money?**

Double Discrimination

穢れ差別 Kegare Sabetsu

Pollution Discrimination: Being considered “polluted” through contact with radiation. Unfounded fear of contamination through contact or proximity. Malformed babies?

妬み差別 Netami Sabetsu

Envy discrimination, based on unearned wealth from compensation.

Abandoning the Homeland

Despite trillions of yen being spent on decontamination in the last decade, only a tiny percentage of the evacuated population has returned. And since most of them are elderly retirees, there is no prospect of these communities ever returning to their pre-disaster lifestyles.

In the case of Nagadoro, I believe that almost none of the 250 inhabitants will ever return.

*Thank you very much
for your kind attention.*