

Interactive comment on “Comment on “Global risk of radioactive fallout after major nuclear reactor accidents” by J. Lelieveld et al. (2012)” by J. Lelieveld et al.

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For the authors it is clearly indispensable to differentiate between 'core melt' and catastrophic accident. It is true, at Chernobyl and Fukushima core melts occurred; but they were not the devastating cause for those accidents. In both cases the reactor building exploded, at Fukushima also the containment was demolished (Chernobyl had no containment). Only in a secondary aspect the core melt essentially made available the radioactive debris spilled. There have been several other core melts with no such catastrophic effect. Consequently, it is not justified to extrapolate from the pooled data about core melts when the next blow of a reactor building will occur.

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