

From the [Washington Post](#);

“Obviously, any time you have an incident at a nuclear plant that involves any kind of damage or an explosion, it’s not good,” said Mitch Singer, spokesman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry’s lobbying arm. **“But in the scheme of things, is it a disaster? We don’t think so.”**

It would be fair to argue that future nuclear policy should be not be determined by events at an aging plant faced with an unprecedented earthquake and tsunami. But it’s unconvincing to claim that the situation in Japan isn’t serious, and if anything it sends the message that the industry doesn’t really take safety seriously. Saying there’s been a radioactive release but it’s not really harmful just isn’t going to work even if it’s true. If the industry continues along this path, it will be heading for the same PR nightmare that BP had.