

# Canadian nuclear plant 'leaked radioactive water'

March 17 2011

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This file photo shows Toronto skyline, seen from Lake Ontario. Thousands of liters of radioactive water have been released into Lake Ontario as a result of an accident at a Canadian nuclear power plant, according to authorities.

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"The event was a low level regulatory event with only negligible effect to the environment and no public health implications," Ontario Power said in a statement on Wednesday.

The power company, which is owned by the Ontario provincial government, said 73,000 liters (19,280 gallons) of [radioactive water](#) was released into Lake Ontario from the Pickering Nuclear Station.

The Pickering [nuclear power station](#), one of five in Canada, is located 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Toronto, the country's largest city with 2.6 million inhabitants.

The company blamed the leak on a faulty pump seal and said it was stopped as soon as it was discovered.

"From a regulatory perspective, this is a very low-level event. There is no impact to quality of [drinking water](#)," the power company said.

The Canadian commission on nuclear safety also said the risk to the environment and human health was "negligible."

The incident occurred against the backdrop of a nuclear crisis in Japan that has prompted debate in many countries about the safety of nuclear power plants.

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