The Power Station Scare (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Last spring, the small town of Ashford heard some worrying news. A journalist wrote that the old nuclear power station was leaking into the ground. People read the article at breakfast and talked about nothing else all day. The mayor promised an answer within a week.

The first public reaction was fear. Parents kept their children away from the river, and the market was almost empty on Saturday. Then the council invited a team of experts from the capital. They arrived on Monday with grey vans and heavy equipment. Their leader, Dr Okafor, explained the plan in simple words, because she knew that most people hated technical language. She said that the whole operation would take four days.

On the first morning, the team took a soil sample from six different fields. They used a new technique that pulled thin tubes of earth from deep underground. Each tube went into a cold box and travelled to the laboratory that same evening. Dr Okafor also asked the station engineers to switch off the old cooling pumps for two days. The engineers agreed, although they were not happy about it. The town watched everything from behind a fence.

The results came back on Friday. No dangerous substance had entered the soil or the water. Dr Okafor showed the numbers on a big screen in the town hall and answered questions for an hour. She said the ground was in a perfectly normal state, and the journalist had misread an old report. Some people clapped, and others still looked doubtful. She reminded them that a scientific answer must always come from evidence, not from rumours. The mayor then announced extra spending on safety checks, so the same fear would not return next year. This type of problem, Dr Okafor said quietly, usually starts with a mistake and ends with better rules.

Woordenlijst

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https://course.interactivelessons.nl/local/podcast/episode.php?id=24530

ابدأ هذه الدورة [illegible]: https://course.interactivelessons.nl/mod/quiz/view.php?id=1625