

Fukushima: oil and water leaks

Wednesday 1 June 2011, by [NAGATA Kazuaki](#) (Date first published: 1 June 2011).

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Stricken Fukushima nuke plant leaking oil

Oil was leaking into the sea from heavy oil tanks for reactors 5 and 6 at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Tuesday, adding the spill may have been ongoing since the March 11 quake and tsunami.

Tepco said workers at the site saw an oil slick floating on the sea at 8 a.m. Tuesday near the intakes of units 5 and 6.

The oil slick is believed to be 200 to 300 meters long.

The total amount of oil that has leaked is still unknown, and the utility plans to set up a boom to prevent the slick from spreading.

According to the utility, the two tanks, whose capacity is 960,000 liters each, were hit by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the tanks themselves or pipelines sustained damage, probably causing the oil spill.

Tepco spokesman Junichi Matsumoto said the utility believes the leak probably started on or shortly after March 11, noting the tsunami moved the tanks more than 10 meters to the north.

When the tsunami hit, a tanker was refilling the tanks and they were nearly full, Matsumoto said during a news conference at Tepco headquarters.

After the tsunami, workers visually checked the tanks from the outside, and did not conduct a detailed inspection, Tepco said.

Akio Koyama, a professor at Kyoto University's Research Reactor Institute and an expert on managing radioactive waste, said heavy oil floating on the sea is unlikely be contaminated with radioactive materials released from the crippled nuclear plant.

Radioactive materials such as ionic cesium usually dissolve in water. Water and oil are immiscible, so radioactive materials in the water rarely get absorbed by oil, Koyama said.

Radioactive materials in the air might stick to the oil, but the amount would be less compared with what's in the seawater, he added.

By **KAZUAKI NAGATA**, *Japan Times Staff* writer, June 1, 2011
<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110601a3.html>

Tokyo Electric Starts Circulation Cooling System at No. 2 Reactor Pool

Fukushima, May 31 (Jiji Press)—Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Tuesday it has started the operations of a water-circulation cooling system for the spent fuel pool of the No. 2 reactor at its crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant.

It is the first time since the ongoing nuclear crisis began on March 11 that a water-circulation cooling system at the plant has begun operating. The system utilizes water that has been used to cool a reactor or a fuel pool.

Tokyo Electric hopes to lower the temperature of the water in the No. 2 reactor pool to around 40 degrees Celsius in one month from the current levels of 70 to 80 degrees, company officials said.

The test operation of the cooling system began 4:20 p.m. (7:20 a.m. GMT), and full operations began one hour later, according to the officials.

Under Tokyo Electric's original roadmap to contain the crisis announced in April, water-circulation cooling systems for spent fuel pools were to be installed between October this year and January 2012.

Jiji Press, May 31, 2011
<http://jen.jiji.com/jc/eng?g=eco&k=2011053101038>

Radioactivity in No. 1 Reactor Basement Water 10,000 Times Normal

Fukushima, May 30 (Jiji Press)—Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Monday that the amounts of radioactive materials in water at a reactor building of the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant were about 10,000 times the normal levels for water inside a nuclear reactor.

The water, recently found in the basement of the No. 1 reactor building of the nuclear power plant, contained 30,000 becquerels of iodine-131 per cubic centimeter, 2.5 million becquerels of cesium-134 and 2.9 million becquerels of cesium-137.

On May 13, Tokyo Electric Power employees entered the No. 1 reactor building and found water 4.2 meters deep in the basement.

Water levels had risen to 4.6 meters high by 5 p.m. Monday (8 a.m. GMT) due to rain and water injections to cool the damaged nuclear fuel. The amount is estimated at 2,700 tons.

The water is believed to have leaked into the basement from the reactor pressure vessel and the container that houses the vessel.

Jiji Press, May 30, 2011

<http://jen.jiji.com/jc/eng?g=eco&k=2011053000813>
