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Radioactive water transfer halted at Fukushima

Tokyo Electric Power Company, operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, has suspended work transferring highly radioactive water from two of the reactor buildings to storage facilities at the plant.

The utility stopped the work at 9 AM on Wednesday, saying it needed to work on power supply lines.

It said when that work is finished it will resume the transfer of water from the Number 2 reactor, but not from Number 3, because storage facilities are nearly full.

Contaminated water accumulating in the reactors' turbine buildings and utility tunnels is hampering the utility's efforts to get the crippled nuclear plant under control.

Tokyo Electric is aiming to transfer a total of 14,000 tons of contaminated water from the two reactor buildings to the storage facilities.

That work is about 90 percent complete at the Number 3 reactor building, but can't be finished until the utility determines how much more storage space is left.

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