March 2026

FUKUSHIMA

15th Anniversary

SimplyInfo.org Annual Report On The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

2026 CONTENTS

Unit 1

On January 19, 2026, Tokyo Electric Power Holdings announced the completion of a large protective cover over the Unit 1 reactor building at Fukushima Daiichi, with the final movable roof adjustment finishing that day. The cover is designed to control dust scattering and rainwater inflow as workers prepare for fuel extraction from the spent fuel pool, which is slated to begin in FY2027–2028.

This new work follows years of concern over the radioactive debris on the refueling floor of Unit 1. The recent photos from the refueling floor show significant radiation-induced pixelation, showing that even 15 years later, this area is extremely unsafe.

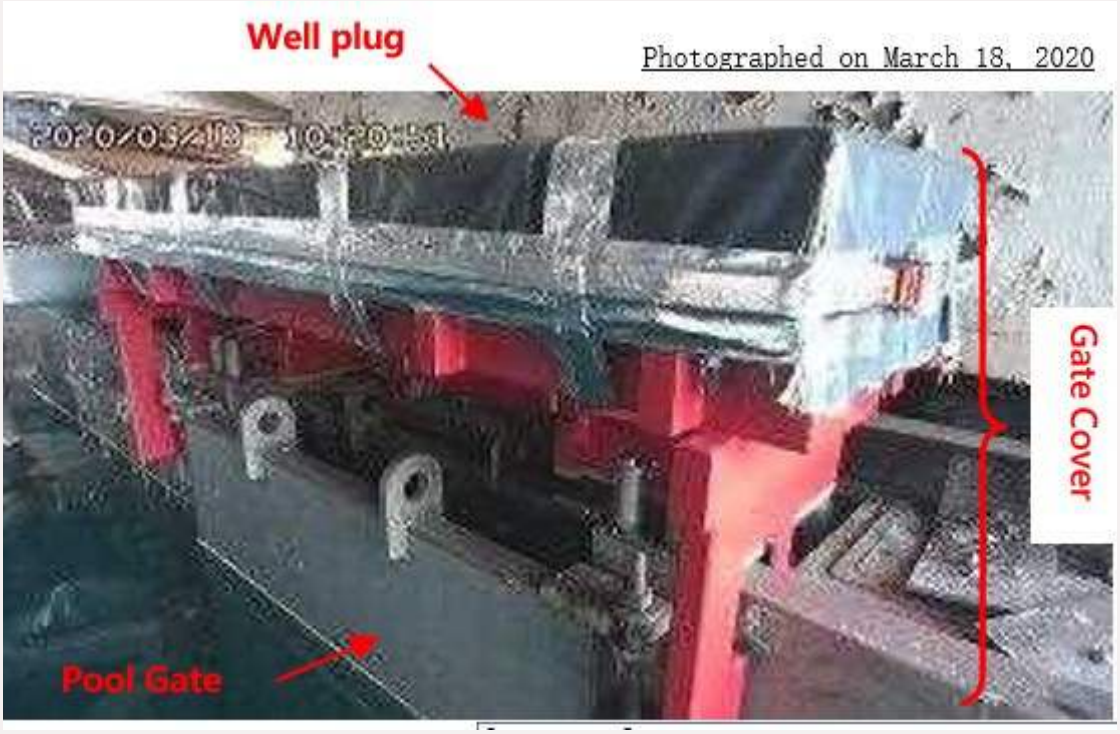
This is the third cover to be placed over Unit 1. The first was hastily installed in October of 2011 without explanation. Years later, we know the concern was the high levels of radioactive fuel dust and small fuel debris.

In preparation for upcoming debris removal work on the operating floor of Unit 1 at Fukushima Daiichi, TEPCO plans to install a large cover over the reactor building to control dust scattering and rainwater ingress. As debris removal progresses, there is a recognized risk that the fuel exchanger's (FHM) auxiliary hoist — currently wedged in a stable position between the collapsed roof and the FHM body — could fall near the spent fuel pool (SFP).

While gate covers and curing bags had already been installed over the SFP by March and June 2020 respectively, engineers identified a residual risk that a direct fall of the auxiliary hoist (approximately 1.1 tonnes, falling from ~5 meters) onto the existing SFP gate cover could damage the underlying SFP gate — the barrier separating the spent fuel pool from the reactor well.

To mitigate this risk, TEPCO designed and installed additional protective “curing” over the SFP gate, using styrofoam as the primary shock-absorbing material. The structure was fabricated in sections to accommodate the site's complex geometry, then lifted into place using a specially modified crane on the east side of the large cover's lower frame. The crane was equipped with lead shielding and lead glass to protect operators from radiation, with cameras mounted on the jib to navigate around debris. The design was validated through elemental drop-weight tests and full mock-up tests confirming that an auxiliary hoist fall would not damage the SFP gate.

Work began on June 26, 2025, and was completed on June 27, 2025 — one day ahead of schedule. TEPCO confirmed continuous dust concentration monitoring was maintained throughout to protect workers and the surrounding environment. With the additional curing in place, the site is better prepared to proceed with the operating floor debris removal campaign, a critical step in the long-term decommissioning of the unit.



Unit 1 spent fuel pool gate reinforcement work

Unit 1 spent fuel pool “curing” pool protection

Unit 1 & 2 SGTS

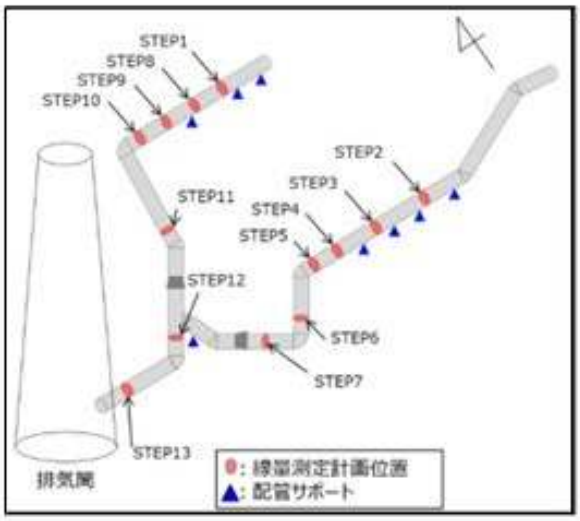
TEPCO began preparatory dosimetry work for the second phase of Unit 1/2 SGTS (Emergency Gas Treatment System) pipe removal in July 2025. The removal project serves several objectives: eliminating interference with rainwater control work at the Unit 1/2 waste treatment building, enabling installation of a large cover over the Unit 1 reactor building, and reducing radiation dose levels at the base of the shared exhaust stack.

The first phase was completed in July 2023, removing pipes that conflicted with the cover installation.

In preparation for the second phase, TEPCO planned to begin radiation measurements of the SGTS piping near the exhaust stack starting July 29, 2025. The work involved remotely operating a lead-shielded dosimeter suspended from a 600-ton crawler crane, taking measurements at 13 designated cut points along the piping.

Data collected will assess internal pipe contamination density and confirm worker safety before cutting operations begin, with TEPCO emphasizing adherence to safety protocols given the high-radiation environment.

Unit 1's spent fuel inventory in the pool that needs to be removed is:
392 assemblies remaining
(292 spent, 100 new)
Extraction: 0%



SGTS Piping Surface Dose Rate Measurement Position

Unit 2

TEPCO's reported on the delivery and installation of a specialized fuel handling machine for removing spent fuel from the Unit 2 spent fuel pool (SFP). The original fuel handling machine was determined to be so damaged by years of heat, steam, and radiation that repair of that unit was not possible. As part of the decommissioning effort and the new fuel removal building going up around unit 2, this new fuel handling machine was added.

In May 2025 TEPCO announced that the equipment was shipped from the manufacturer's factory on May 21 and successfully delivered to the power station site on May 24 via supercarrier. At the time of that announcement, preparations were underway to transport the equipment to the front room of the fuel extraction platform. The equipment provided by Toshiba consists of five major components: a crane, a fuel handling machine, a vertical spreader (also referred to as a vertical hoist), a transport container simulator, and a traveling trolley.

The second report, dated May 30, 2025, confirmed that the fuel handling machine was successfully hoisted by crane onto the top of the Unit 2 fuel removal work platform and affixed to the runway girder rails, the structural foundation of moving rails spanning the reactor building, and
the platform. This represented a significant step forward in the broader decommissioning effort at Fukushima Daiichi. TEPCO plans to start actual fuel removal from the Unit 2 SFP during fiscal year 2026.

Unit 2 Fuel Debris

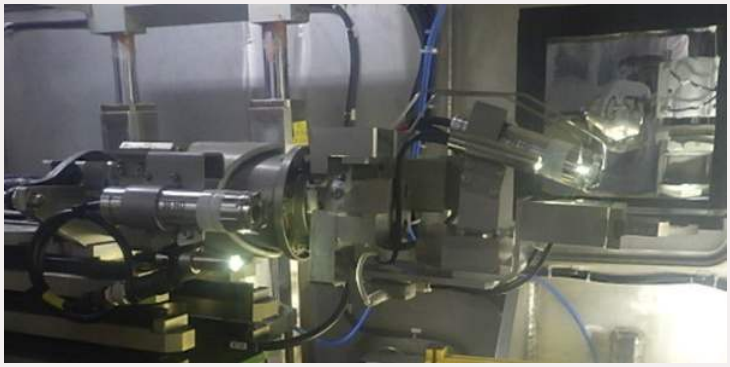
TEPCO completed the retrieval of a small amount of fuel debris from unit 2 in the spring of 2026. The collected samples were sent for further investigation in a hot cell lab to confirm the composition and properties of the sample to help inform future fuel debris removal work.

April 3rd - Preparation: In advance of the second retrieval attempt, TEPCO replaced cameras and the end jig on the telescopic retrieval device. Worker training had been conducted March 25–31. A key improvement from the first attempt was redesigning the end jig to move the gripper to the center of rotation, improving stability. The gripper size was also enlarged from 5mm to 7mm square to better accommodate the debris being sampled.

April 23rd - Retrieval Completion: The side hatch of the containment enclosure was opened, and the transportation box — containing the sampled fuel debris — was successfully removed and loaded into an indoor transportation container, formally completing the trial retrieval process.

April 24th - Sample Measurements: Inside a glove box in the reactor building, the sample was measured and characterized. The debris weighed approximately 0.2g. Gamma ray dose rates were negligible at the container exterior, though beta ray readings of ~4.5 mSv/h were detected inside the glove box. Gamma ray spectrum analysis indicated the possible presence of Europium-154, which tends to accompany uranium. Hydrogen concentration was below detectable limits, confirming the sample was safe to transport.

April 25th - Off-site Transport: The sample was transported to the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) Oarai Nuclear Engineering Institute. Analysis is expected to take one to one-and-a-half years, with findings intended to inform the gradual expansion of future fuel debris retrieval operations.

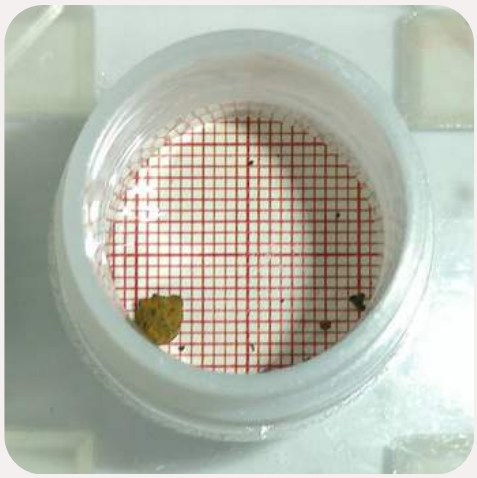


The fuel debris sample is brought into a hot cell connected to the rig for the retrieval arm. Initial readings are taken before removing it to the small transit container.

Removed fuel debris sample in the shielded inner container, preparing it for transport.

Fuel debris sample placed in transit container that is then strapped to a mobile sled before being mounted in the flat bed truck. The truck delivered the sample to the hot lab at Oarai in Ibaraki prefecture.

Sample shown below, photo taken in lab conditions.



Unit 3

TEPCO conducted a survey as part of preparation work for fuel debris removal at Unit 3. Engineers are planning to access and remove fuel debris through the X-6 and X-1B penetrations. To evaluate whether additional penetrations (specifically X-2) might also be usable, they needed a clearer picture of conditions inside the Personal Airlock (P/A) room, which serves as a passage for workers entering the containment vessel.

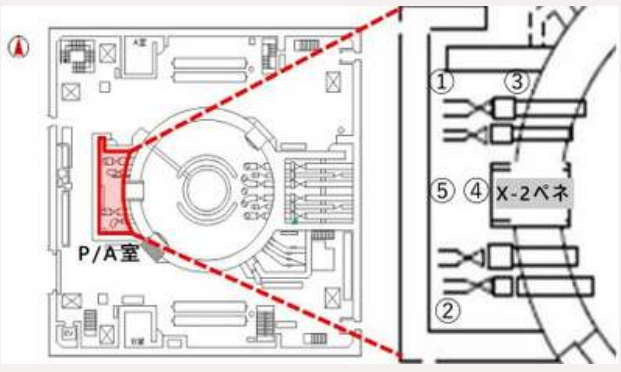
Before committing to construction methods and worker access plans, they needed to verify the radiation environment on the first floor of the reactor building. The last survey was in 2016 and showed very high radiation doses, so they needed current data to inform safety planning. Because those 2016 readings were so elevated, they used remote-controlled robots rather than sending workers in directly. Radiation levels (air dose equivalent rates) had fallen significantly across all five measurement points compared to 2016:

Point	2016 (mSv/h)	2025 (mSv/h)	Reduction
①	13	7	~46%
②	80	36	~55%
③	50	34	~32%
④	60	29	~52%
⑤	80	32	~60%

The 2025 measurements were taken at a slightly higher height (150cm vs 100cm), which would tend to read somewhat lower, so the comparison isn't apples-to-apples, but the overall downward trend is still considered useful information.

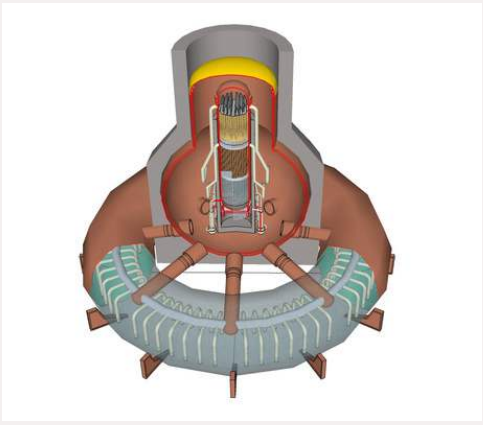
Based on these results, TEPCO decided it was feasible to send workers in to operate a gamma imager that combines radiation source mapping with 3D point cloud data to visually identify hotspots.

They planned approximately five measurement points starting September 9, with the full survey expected to wrap up by mid-September 2025. We have not seen any follow-up reports on this work. The data collected so far will feed into decisions about construction methods and dose reduction strategies that will be needed before fuel debris removal can begin.

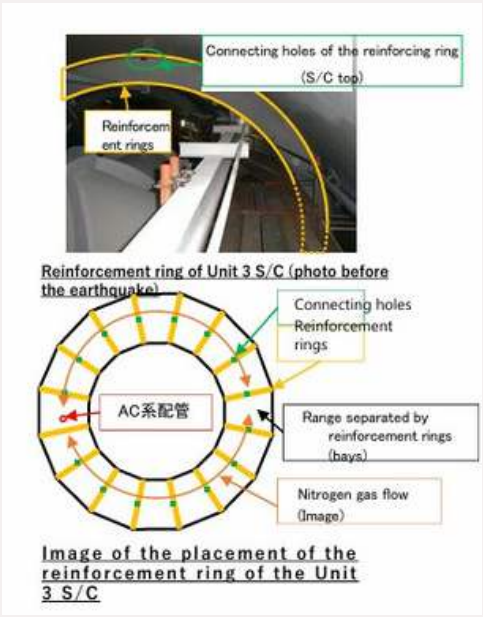


Unit 3
Gas Purge

A small but significant problem has persisted inside Unit 3's pressure suppression chamber (S/C) since the 2011 accident: accident-generated gas became trapped there, and that gas contains a dangerously high hydrogen concentration of about 56%. Because hydrogen becomes flammable above 4%, TEPCO has been working since December 2023 to extract this gas through a purging process. That first phase ran through April 2025 and successfully removed roughly 1,072 cubic meters of gas, but due to the S/C's internal structure — specifically 16 reinforcing rings that create segmented compartments — a residual pocket of about 90 cubic meters of high-hydrogen gas remains trapped at the top of the chamber.



The new plan to deal with this residual gas involves a two-step dilute-then-purge cycle, repeated twice. First, nitrogen is pumped into the S/C (starting July 28, 2025), which pushes the water level down below the reinforcing rings, allowing the trapped gas pockets to mix and dilute. After the first nitrogen injection of ~270 cubic meters over about 10 days, the hydrogen concentration is expected to drop from 56% to roughly 15%. The diluted gas is then purged over about 45 days. A second, larger nitrogen injection (~710 cubic meters over ~25 days) follows, which should bring the hydrogen concentration below the 4% flammability threshold. The entire process is expected to take about 4–5 months. There has been no further follow up from TEPCO since this July report to indicate progress or that the work was completed.



Reinforcement ring of Unit 3 S/C (photo before the earthquake)

Image of the placement of the reinforcement ring of the Unit 3 S/C

TEPCO has identified and planned for several risks, including oxygen displacement hazards for workers, potential backflow of S/C gas into the nitrogen lines (addressed with check valves), and the possibility that expanding the gas phase could reach unknown liquid-phase leak points in the S/C. That last risk is managed by carefully capping the nitrogen injection volume to stay within the gas volume range recorded back in December 2023, before purging began. As of the July 24, 2025 report date, equipment installation is complete, and the operation was ready to begin.

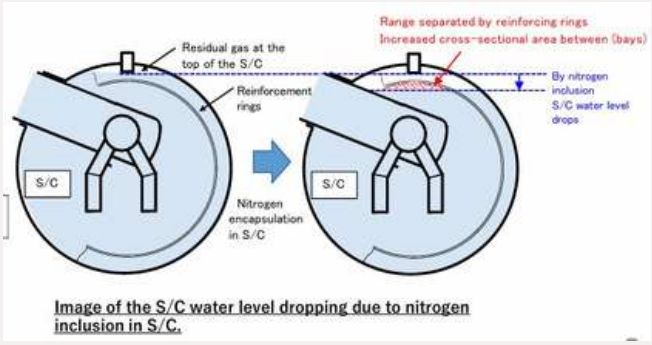
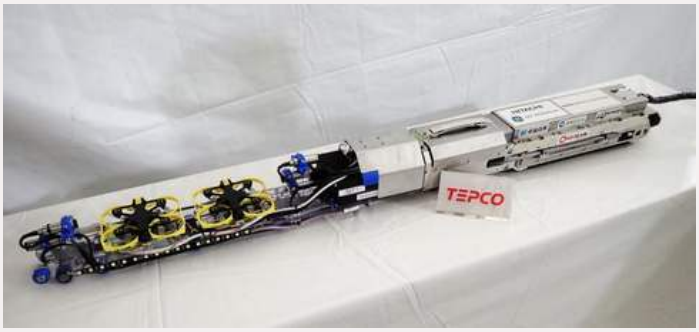


Image of the S/C water level dropping due to nitrogen inclusion in S/C.

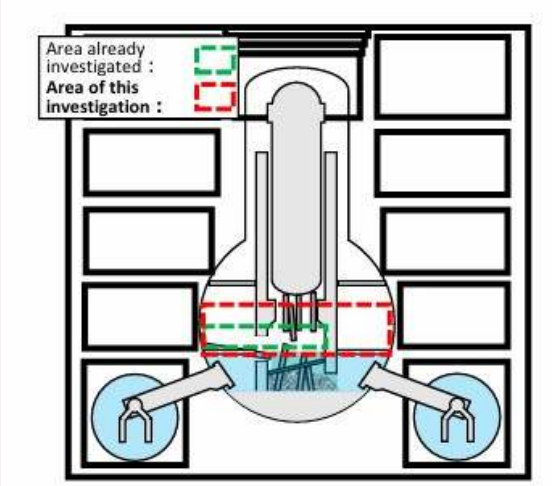
Unit 3 Containment Inspection

TEPCO plans to investigate the Unit 3 Primary Containment Vessel (PCV) at Fukushima Daiichi using specially designed micro-drones. Because conventional equipment cannot access the PCV through its single small entry point (X-53, ~140mm diameter), TEPCO developed a palm-sized 95-gram drone with 2.7K camera capability and radiation resistance up to 200Gy. The PCV water level was lowered and permanent monitoring instruments removed to enable flights, with 11 investigation days and up to 21 total flights planned.



The first phase focuses on the area outside the pedestal on the Dry Well's first floor. Initial flights will map radio range and identify obstructions, followed by systematic photography to build 3D reconstructions. Key inspection targets include penetrations X-2, X-1A, X-1B, and X-35 (future access routes), subfloor stairs, CRD pipes (to understand fuel flow during the accident), and the X-6 penetration and CRD replacement hatch — the most critical points for future fuel debris retrieval.

The second phase moves inside the reactor pedestal, covering bottom, middle, and top tiers. Bottom-tier flights will map deposits and confirm water levels; the middle tier will examine TIP penetrations, pedestal wall surfaces, and the CRD platform; the top tier will assess CRD housing for damage and missing parts to support RPV access planning.



Cross-sectional diagram of the Unit 3 PCV internal investigation area

The final four days are reserved for follow-up investigations based on earlier findings, potentially including flights inside X-6 or down to the RPV bottom. The final day includes direct dose rate measurements to calibrate radiation estimates. As of December 2025, TEPCO had examined the X-53 penetration pipe but had not yet attempted the full inspections.

Other Units

U4 Fuel Handling Machine removal

In November of 2025, TEPCO removed the fuel handling machine from above the unit 4 spent fuel pool. The defueling building and the fuel handling crane had been installed as a suspended system over the heavily damaged unit 4. Concerns for both the stability of the outer building and the spent fuel pool itself caused the decommissioning efforts to address unit 4's spent fuel first. With the pool fully emptied of fuel and contaminated reactor components such as control rods, the fuel handling machine was no longer needed.

U5 spent fuel removal started

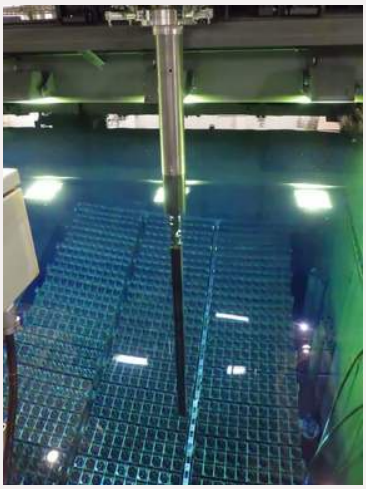
On July 23, 2025, TEPCO announced the start of fuel removal operations from the Unit 5 spent fuel pool (SFP). To prepare, TEPCO worked to free up capacity in the common pool where the Unit 5 fuel will be transferred. This marks the very beginning of what will be a lengthy removal process, with a goal to complete fuel removal from all units by 2031.

Unit 5 Spent Fuel Pool – Current Status:

- Total fuel assemblies stored: 1,542
  - Spent fuel: 1,374 assemblies
  - New (unused) fuel: 168 assemblies

Fuel extraction rate: 0%

(removal just commenced July 23, 2025, no new report available)



Unit 6
Spent Fuel

The last of the spent fuel removal at Unit 6 was completed. While Unit 6 had not sustained any damage to the spent fuel pool, removing the fuel here was an uncomplicated task. The unit's spent fuel pool can also now act as temporary storage if needed for any fuel removed from units 1, 2 and 5.

Status of All Units (as of July 23, 2025):

- **Unit 1** – 392 assemblies remaining (292 spent, 100 new) | Extraction: 0%
- **Unit 2** – 615 assemblies remaining (587 spent, 28 new) | Extraction: 0%
- **Unit 3** – Fully cleared | Extraction: 100%
- **Unit 4** – Fully cleared | Extraction: 100%
- **Unit 5** – 1,542 assemblies remaining Extraction: 0% (just begun)
- **Unit 6** – 428 assemblies remaining (198 in SFP, 230 in separate storage) Extraction: 77.3% as of July 2025, later reports confirm this work is 100% complete

Units 3 and 4 represent the most significant progress to date, having fully cleared their spent fuel pools. Units 1 and 2 present the greatest remaining challenge, due to the complexity of their severely damaged reactor buildings, and extraction there has not yet begun.

TEPCO's new fuel debris portal

This interactive site includes information about the status of each unit along with detailed videos of various containment inspections that have not been shared in their regular reporting like this video of the pedestal of unit 1

Plant

This TV Asahi investigative report from March 2025 paints a sobering picture of the enormous challenges still facing the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi, fourteen years after the accident. While TEPCO achieved a milestone the previous November by extracting roughly 0.7 grams of nuclear fuel debris for the first time, experts interviewed for the piece emphasized that debris removal is just one piece of a far more complex puzzle. Around 1,000 fuel assemblies still remain in the spent fuel pools of Units 1 and 2, untouched since the accident, and officials from the Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF) described clearing these pools as the single most urgent priority — in part because another earthquake or tsunami could strike at any time.

Before large-scale debris removal can even begin, the area around the reactor buildings must be cleared of heavily contaminated structures and exhaust stacks to make room for the massive equipment required. Because humans cannot safely approach the highly radioactive debris, all removal work must be done remotely. Radiation levels outside the buildings remain dangerously high — a dosimeter near Unit 2 showed particularly elevated readings — and contaminated water continues to be generated at a rate of roughly 80 tons per day as rainwater and groundwater contact radioactive materials on site, despite TEPCO having already released about 80,000 tons of treated water into the ocean.

Perhaps the most troubling concern raised in the article is what happens to the debris and radioactive waste after it is removed. Hiroshi Miyano, chairman of the Decommissioning Review Committee of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan, was blunt in his criticism, saying no serious thought has been given to managing this waste over the coming century or two. The Fukushima debris is uniquely complicated because it is a mixture of melted nuclear fuel and structural materials, and experts warned that removal may not even be possible until a concrete disposal plan is in place. General decommissioning superintendent Toyoshi Fukada warned that without proper storage facilities ready in advance, the entire decommissioning effort could eventually grind to a halt simply because there would be nowhere to put the waste.

When TEPCO representative Akira Ono was asked about these unresolved questions — where the debris will go, when disposal decisions will be made, and whether the debris will ever leave Fukushima — his answers were notably vague, stressing that information gathering must come first and that any decisions would require consultation with local residents, the government, and relevant organizations. The government and TEPCO remain committed to a 2051 completion target for decommissioning, but the article leaves little doubt that the path there is far less defined than that deadline implies.

Contamination

Zeolite bag work in incinerator building

TEPCO began collecting radioactive zeolite and activated carbon sandbags from the basements of the High Temperature Incinerator Building (HTI) and Process Main Building (PMB) at Fukushima Daiichi on March 26, 2025. These bags were originally placed after the accident to adsorb radioactive materials from stagnant water, but have since deteriorated and can no longer be moved intact. Using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) in the high-dose, darkened basement environment, workers are vacuuming out the zeolite contents and consolidating them — a process that will take roughly a year. The collected material will then be dewatered, sealed into metal storage containers, and transported to a temporary storage facility, with the full encapsulation work expected to be completed by FY2026–2027.

Unusual isotopes measured from ALPS

This August 2025 TEPCO report confirms that treated water released from Fukushima Daiichi continues to meet safety standards. The main update in this report was that Cerium-144, a radioactive isotope that decays relatively quickly (half-life ~285 days), has diminished enough over the 14 years since the accident that it no longer needs to be formally tracked. The mandatory monitoring list will therefore shrink from 30 to 29 nuclides, though TEPCO will continue checking for Ce-144 voluntarily. Across all 13 prior ocean releases, Ce-144 was undetectable every time.

The report also covers five additional isotopes (Cl-36, Nb-93m, Nb-94, Mo-93, and Ba-133) that are theoretically possible in the water but have never shown up at what TEPCO considers concerning levels. Annual testing in March 2025 confirmed all five remain well below safety thresholds, suggesting the overall radioactive profile of the water is stable and unchanged.

Tanks Removed

TEPCO reported on the dismantling of contaminated water storage tanks in the J8 and J9 water tank areas. Work at J9 came first, with the dismantling of 12 welded tanks (each 700 m^3 capacity) beginning on February 14, 2025, with completion on September 3, 2025. The tanks had stored ALPS-treated water that was discharged into the ocean before dismantling.

The J8 area, containing 9 similar tanks, followed next — its stored water was transferred between July and November 2025, with preparatory work continuing through late 2025, and full dismantling beginning January 20, 2026, with completion targeted for the end of FY2026.

The dismantling efforts for both the J8 and J9 areas, along with the adjacent E area, need to be cleared to make way for the construction of “fuel debris removal facilities” for Units 2 and 3.

Dosimetry confirmed that radiation levels in all nine J8 tanks were at "background equivalent" levels before work began, indicating the water transfers had been effectively completed.

Workers

Drinking water incident on site

On May 23, 2025, a contractor working at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant inadvertently drank from a water bottle while riding a circulation bus within the controlled area — a violation of safety regulations — and self-reported the incident to his team leader upon exiting the bus. Subsequent contamination checks, including mouth/nose surveys and a whole body counter measurement, confirmed that the worker had not been internally contaminated.

Exposure Dose Distribution: February–October 2025

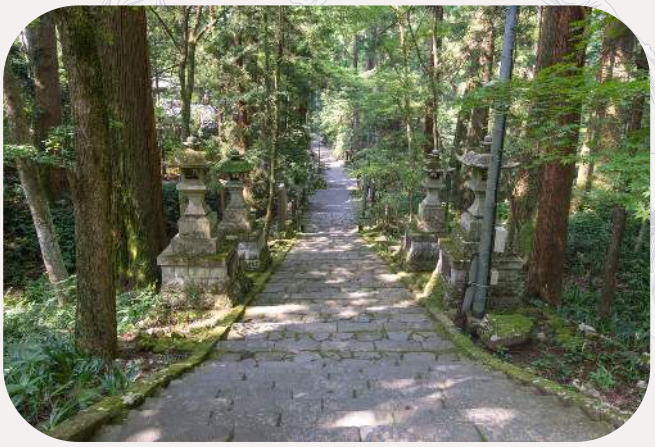
According to TEPCO's May 2025 report and the MHLW's November 2025 update, between 7,500 and 8,200 workers entered the Fukushima Daiichi site each month across the February–October 2025 period. Monthly site-wide average effective doses ranged from 0.20 to 0.34 mSv. The highest single-month dose recorded by any individual worker was 10.80 mSv (a contractor, March 2025). In the August–October 2025 period, zero workers received more than 20 mSv in any given month, with only two contractor workers in October recording doses in the 10–20 mSv band. No significant internal exposure has been recorded since October 2011. Equivalent doses to the skin peaked at 24.7 mSv in a single month, and to the lens of the eye at 12.9 mSv, both measured during the February–April 2025 period. TEPCO didn't provide specifics on whether any of the exposures were tied to specific work at the plant.

Cumulative Exposure Since April 2021

Over the five-year tracking period from April 2021 through October 2025, a total of approximately 20,469 workers were recorded. The highest individual cumulative effective dose reached 75.78 mSv among contractor workers. The overall workforce average for the period was 5.51 mSv. Of the total workforce tracked, 177 workers accumulated between 50–75 mSv, 1,583 between 20–50 mSv, and 2,116 between 10–20 mSv. The maximum cumulative eye lens equivalent dose over the same five-year period was 68.54 mSv. Again, TEPCO doesn't provide data to know if these higher exposures were tied to specific work at the plant.

Worker Radiation Documents:
TEPCO Report
MWHL Report
Fukushima Prefecture Reports
Report 1
Report 2
Fukushima Prefecture 2025 Accident Report

Environment



Radiation In Food And The Environment

Overview of Findings (January–November 2025)

Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima publishes monthly radiation measurement results covering soil, food, marine, and environmental samples across Fukushima and neighboring prefectures. The most concerning finding across all eleven months is the persistent cesium contamination in children's playground soil throughout Iwaki City. Every month, a different park is surveyed, and every one shows elevated cesium readings across multiple sampling points, ranging from the low hundreds to over 700 Bq/kg dry. The highest soil reading was 8,011 Bq/kg dry at Hishikawa Park in August. The highest reading found was 40,318.8 Bq/kg dry from lichen in Haramachi, Minamisouma in July, showing the bioaccumulation properties of that organism.

Food, Environment, and Special Concerns

Food items remain mostly not in the top 10 high results, with dried and powdered shiitake mushrooms being the exception, reaching 72 Bq/kg raw. Wild-foraged mountain vegetables such as koshiabra and bamboo shoots also made the monthly top 10 lists.

Three findings stand out as particularly significant beyond the park soil pattern. First, the August air conditioner dust reading of 2,212.9 Bq/kg dry and the November general dust reading of 402.5 Bq/L from the same Izumigaoka, Iwaki address suggests a persistent indoor airborne contamination pathway at that location that warrants serious follow-up.

Second, November's oak log and cedar tree samples from Tabito, Iwaki (12.3 and 11.8 Bq/kg raw, respectively) provide a clear mechanistic explanation for why log-grown shiitake from the area consistently show elevated readings — the fungal mycelium draws cesium directly from contaminated wood. Third, the detection of Cs-134 (half-life approximately two years) across multiple samples throughout the year indicates that some contamination still contains this shorter-lived isotope.

Full data from our review can be found here.
All of the reports and more can be found at Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima

Environment

Hybrid Nuclear Pigs

After the 2011 Fukushima disaster, escaped domestic pigs interbred with wild boar in the exclusion zone, and mitochondrial DNA analysis confirms that domestic maternal lineages played a significant role in the population's long-term growth. This hybridization highlights how human-altered environments can accelerate evolutionary change, posing new challenges for rewilding and wildlife management.

Japan Radiation Map

A recent screenshot of the radiation levels in Fukushima prefecture from The Institute of Information Design using government readings shows levels remain moderate in the region surrounding the plant. Readings adjacent to the plant are still significant.

The Evacuation Zone

The 2011 tsunami killed more than 20,000 people along Japan's northeast coast. Norio Kimura, a former pig farmer, lost his wife, seven-year-old daughter Yuna, and mother that day. He is still searching for the rest of his daughter's remains.

Towns near the plant — particularly Okuma — remain eerily preserved. Kumamachi primary school still has textbooks on desks, shoes in hallways, and bento boxes left behind by children who fled and never returned. Radiation levels remain too high in some areas for permanent return.

In the absence of humans, the natural world has dramatically reclaimed the area. Gardens have become jungles, and wild boar, raccoons, black bears, macaque monkeys, and other animals now roam freely through streets and abandoned homes.

The government's post-disaster clean-up has focused on residential areas, removing contaminated topsoil near homes, schools, and public buildings — generating about 15 million cubic metres of waste now stored at interim sites. The forests that cover roughly 70% of the contaminated region were not included. Elevated levels of cesium-137 persist in forest soil, trees, streams, and wildlife. Some foods like mushrooms, bamboo shoots, and wild boar remain banned.

By March 2025, the population of seven evacuated towns and villages stood at just 12,300, only 17% of pre-disaster levels. In Okuma, only 300 original residents have returned alongside 700 newcomers. Some areas remain designated "difficult-to-return zones." The interim contaminated soil storage is expected to reside in the exclusion zone until 2045 but no clear permanent plan exists.

Future

The current projected date to complete decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi is 2051. No clear roadmap of how they get there has been established to date. The challenges are understood on a superficial level with the understanding of how to accomplish some of the unprecedented tasks still needing to be researched.

The clean up of the reactors and all other related remediation and compensation is projected to be at least $200 billion USD. Costs could continue to go up as recovery challenges are further understood. To date, 82 billion USD has been spent on the disaster and decommissioning.

In the end, the Japanese people will shoulder the cost. Either through government funded efforts, or through their utility bill payments that go to TEPCO.

While the recovery in Japan appears far in the future, some parts of the world have forgotten any of the lessons from the disaster.

The US government is attempting to resurrect nuclear power through various public and private efforts, many of them around powering Ai data centers.

Japan itself appears to have put the disaster into a memory hole. The Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, owned by TEPCO was allowed to restart.

Japanese grocery store chain Aoki Super Co. signed a contract to buy fusion nuclear power from a startup company, Helical Fusion Co. The company has yet to establish any usable fusion technology.

Some countries have made strides towards ending their dependence on nuclear power. German ended their nuclear power program in 2023. Switzerland plans to retire their last reactor in 2034 Other countries such as Belgium and France were spooked by the war in Ukraine and have backed off previous plans to phase out their nuclear power programs.

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