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## Boric acid being added to No.3 reactor fuel pool

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Tokyo Electric Power Company has begun adding boric acid to the spent fuel storage pool of the No.3 reactor at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to prevent fuel racks from being corroded by alkaline water.

The company started the operation on Sunday morning. About 90 tons of water containing boric acid will be poured into the pool through Monday.

Concrete debris from the March hydrogen explosion of the reactor building has been detected in the fuel pool.

Last month, TEPCO found that the water in the pool had turned strongly alkaline, with its PH level reaching 11.2. The leaching of calcium hydrate from the debris is believed to be the cause.

TEPCO says the condition may accelerate corrosion of aluminum racks holding spent fuel rods and may cause the rods to topple in the worst case, which could lead to re-criticality.

At the same time, TEPCO is preparing to install a circulatory cooling system at the fuel pool that will go into operation in early July.

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