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Decontamination system to fully operate on Monday

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it hopes to begin full-scale operation on Monday of a system to decontaminate highly radioactive water.

Contaminated water is still accumulating in the plant, as water is being injected to cool the reactors.

Tokyo Electric Power Company was forced to suspend the test run of the system a number of times due to problems with a device that removes radioactive substances.

The utility says it managed to resolve the problem by using a different absorbent material for the devices, and the equipment that removes salt is working normally.

The company says it will review its procedures, and will consider replacing the absorption devices more frequently than once a month.

The storage facilities for contaminated water will not fill up until July 5th, as 5,400 tons was cleaned during the test runs and the contaminated water that was about to fill the reactor buildings can now be transferred.

However, it remains to be seen if the system can operate stably, as the pump of the salt-removal device failed on Saturday.

It is also feared that heavy rain during the rainy season or a typhoon may quickly fill up the storage facilities.

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