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## TEPCO ready to inject nitrogen into No.2 reactor

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Tokyo Electric Power Company is ready to inject nitrogen into the containment vessel of the Number 2 reactor at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to prevent hydrogen blasts.

The company says it will monitor radiation levels around the compound more closely as the nitrogen may force out tiny amounts of gas containing radioactive substances.

Work is underway at the damaged nuclear plant to decontaminate water and inject it back into the reactor for cooling.

But if the reactors are cooled to a stable level, less moisture will be produced, raising the ratio of hydrogen in the air.

Hydrogen can cause an explosion when it reacts with oxygen.

TEPCO has been pumping nitrogen into the No.1 reactor since April and has completed preparations to do the same at the No. 2 reactor.

The utility assessed the possible effects of nitrogen injection into the No.2 reactor, and submitted its report to the government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency on Friday.

It plans to start the injection as soon as it obtains the consent of the agency.

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