

Motegi halts use of underground Fukushima pools

Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi says he plans to have the operator of the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant halt the use of underground pools that have leaked large amounts of contaminated water. He says contaminated water in the leaked pools will be quickly transferred to steel tanks above ground.

Motegi was speaking at a Lower House committee session on Wednesday. He expressed regret over Tokyo Electric Power Company's slow response to the problem.



The minister said he will instruct TEPCO to accelerate the construction of additional above-ground storage tanks and complete them by the end of May. The new tanks are to accommodate contaminated water from the underground pools.

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