

UN approves radioactive waste dump

The International Atomic Energy Agency says Japan's plan to release irradiated waste water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean complies with international standards

Storage: Around **1,000** huge tanks scattered over site hold nearly **1.3 million** tonnes of contaminated water, but space is running out

Dilution plant

1,000km
620 miles

JAPAN

Fukushima

300m
980 ft

Wrecked nuclear power station*

Undersea pipe:
Expels waste water **1km** off shore

NO FISHING ZONE

DILUTION SYSTEM

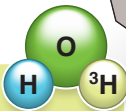
Measurement facility: Checks purification level

Mixture: Waste and sea water combined

Final check: Makes sure dilution is satisfactory

Waste water:
Purified of radioactive material, excluding **tritium**

Tritium water:
Chemically identical to normal water – tritium cannot be removed



Pumps

Sea water intake

Pump

Road

Discharged into ocean

*Mar 11, 2011: 14-metre high tsunami destroys power station in worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl

Sources: Reuters, Market Research Telecast, TEPCO, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GIS), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Picture: GIS

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