

China Lashes Out at 'Chaos and Disorder' Behind Fukushima Radioactive Waste Water Leak

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China's embassy in <u>Japan</u> has lashed out over Wednesday's <u>leak</u> of radioactive waste water from the tsunami-battered <u>Fukushima</u> nuclear power plant, rebuking its operator the Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) and the <u>Japanese</u> government.

"Japan's repeated accidents in the process of treating Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water have fully exposed the chaos and disorder of Tepco's internal management," an embassy spokesman said on Thursday.

"The Japanese government's supervision measures are lacking and ineffective, which once again proves that the nuclear-contaminated water treatment equipment lacks long-term reliability."

The spokesman added that the incident "further highlights the need for the international community to engage in supervision".

Echoing the sentiments in separate comments on Thursday afternoon, Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said China was assessing the situation."

Japan has a responsibility to share information about the incident in a timely, comprehensive, and transparent manner and provide a proper explanation," he said.

About 5,500 litres of water is estimated to have leaked from a caesium absorption tower – a section of the plant used for treating contaminated water – on Wednesday morning after a valve was left open during cleaning work.

According to Tepco, the leaked water is a mix of contaminated water from the plant's absorption system and filtered water used for cleaning. It is estimated to contain around 0.022 Terabecquerels (TBq) of radioactive substances.

Tepco said there was no risk to the public and the surrounding environment was unaffected by the leak, which was noticed by a contractor shortly before 9am local time and stopped 23 minutes later.

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