



Ten Thousand Holes in Fuku Dai-ichi

Posted by [JoulesBurn](#) on May 26, 2011 - 12:45am

I read the news today (...) and it seems that there are a growing number of holes at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility. Although nobody has actually seen them, much less counted them all, holes from 3cm to perhaps 7cm in diameter are [believed to exist](#) in the primary containment vessels for at least two of the reactors. Tepco suspects that the holes were created by molten fuel eating its way through the steel walls. Water is being injected into the containment in an effort to continuously remove heat from the fuel, but the water leaking through the holes is bringing radioactive contaminants along with it while filling up the no-longer-drywell and the basement of the reactor building. A plant to process this water is being designed. In the meanwhile, highly radioactive water is being pumped to a storage facility next door. Unfortunately, this facility is [almost full](#).



But perhaps this is not a problem, as the storage facility is apparently [leaking as well](#).

The operator of Japan's troubled nuclear plant is trying to determine where contaminated water from a waste disposal facility is leaking to, after finding that the water level inside the facility has dropped.

It has been awhile since this all started, and there is still some concern that one or more of the reactors was disabled prior to the tsunami. Although much of the evidence about what transpired in the first hours and days after the earthquake has long been available, Tepco is just now reporting on it.

[No. 1 reactor pressure vessel likely damaged immediately after quake](#)

Thinking in the forward (?) direction, Switzerland is going to [phase out nuclear](#). Back in Fukushima, there is some discussion of turning the Dai-ichi plant into a nuclear waste repository.

[Fukushima Considered for Nuclear Graveyard](#)

(...probably not a good idea)

Some, however, choose to live in neither the past, the present, or the future -- but rather in some strange world where scientific rigor and clear logic have even less import.

[Big Island Dairy Farmers fight radiation with Boron](#)

After much consideration, research, and conversations with much appreciated experts in the field of biological farming and human & animal health, we have found some things which we are able to do to protect our soil, animals, and bodies.

...

We have remembered our friend, elemental boron and the position it plays on the earth. Boron is the only mineral capable of accepting and ionizing radiation that never changes the innards or the nucleus of the cell. Spoken simply, boron can take radiation and release it without upsetting its own very delicate balance.

...

Boron will accept radiation and ionize it within our bodies, after which our bodies will safely excrement the boron and radioactivity.

Adding borax to milk!

Most readers are probably aware that boron is a neutron absorber, useful for keeping a large concentration of a fissile material from going critical. It is not going to protect you from radiation internally -- unless you have just swallowed a critical mass of uranium fuel pellets. In that case, it will keep your stomach from functioning as a nuclear reactor.

In a [previous post](#), I gathered some reference and educational materials. Perhaps this will help.

[open thread: Fukushima related comments welcome]



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