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Regulators to change rules to improve organization's transparency

TOKYO, Feb. 6, Kyodo

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority decided Wednesday to prohibit its staff from meeting alone with officials of nuclear power plant operators even if it is a courtesy visit, to ensure transparency in its relations with the industry.

The decision was reached after the NRA recently discovered a senior official of its secretariat had given away an undisclosed document to officials of Japan Atomic Power Co. during a meeting at which no other members of the regulatory body attended because it was held under the purpose of a "courtesy call."

The incident has been taken seriously inside the organization launched last September in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster as part of efforts to bring an end to what can be seen as collusion between regulators and plant operators.

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