

## Gist of new safety standards proposed for reactors

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority has drafted an outline of new safety standards for nuclear power plants. The new rules are expected to ensure that the country's nuclear power plants can withstand severe accidents like the one at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

One of the proposed measures is a vent system equipped with filters to reduce levels of radioactive exhaust in case of an accident. The lack of such a system led to a massive radioactive leak at the Fukushima plant.

Another requirement being considered is a powerful water injection facility that could cool a damaged reactor from a safe distance. Such a system would be helpful in the event the reactor's building is heavily damaged by a plane crash, for instance.

The authority has also proposed that alternative control rooms to monitor reactors be built away from the reactor buildings. This would reduce the risk of plant workers being irradiated in an emergency.

Some of these measures would involve a major revamp. The panel has yet to discuss the urgency of each measure or decide on how long certain measures can wait.

Part of the new standards will be used as criteria from July for restarting nuclear plants that are currently off-line.

The nuclear regulatory body presented the outline to a panel on Monday. It will compile the final draft by the end of this month which will then be reviewed by the public. The authority is expected to announce the new standards by July.

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