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## Gov't panel member urges limited reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel

TOKYO, March 26, Kyodo

A member of the government's Atomic Energy Commission said Tuesday that spent nuclear fuel reprocessing should be implemented only when it becomes clear that plutonium extracted in the process will be used for commercial reactors.

The proposal was made after a group of Japan's major utilities gave up on devising by the end of March a plan on how to use about 0.4 ton of fissile plutonium to be extracted by reprocessing in the fiscal year starting from April, given uncertainty over the resumption of the country's nuclear reactors in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi complex disaster.

"Under the current sequence, first a reprocessing plan is submitted and then where to use plutonium is considered....and that leads to an increase in stocks," Tatsujiro Suzuki, the commission vice chairman, said during a meeting Tuesday.

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