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19:23 10 October

New nuclear safety standards to include steps against terrorist acts

TOKYO, Oct. 10, Kyodo

Japan's new nuclear regulatory authority said Wednesday it plans to ask utilities to take measures to protect nuclear power plants against catastrophic damage from terrorist attacks as it moves to craft new safety standards for reactors.

In the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster last year, the government has decided to legally require utilities to take steps to prevent accidents that could result in serious damage to reactor cores and the massive release of radioactive materials.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority is expected to compile a draft outline of the new safety standards by March 31 and finalize them by July.

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