Nuclear regulator says checking all reactors in 3 yrs difficult

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Japan's nuclear regulatory authority chief said Wednesday it would be difficult to finish safety assessments on all of the country's commercial reactors in three years, as aimed by the new government led by the Liberal Democratic Party.

Nuclear power plant operators are expected to apply for restart of their reactors once the Nuclear Regulation Authority, an organization launched in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis, compiles new safety standards by July.

But NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka said he does not think such applications for all of the 50 reactors will be filed "all at once," or "one right after another," and that it will take time if utilities need some construction work to clear the safety standards.

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