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Nuclear watchdog to study impact of 2011 quake on Fukushima plant

TOKYO, May 1, Kyodo

The Nuclear Regulation Authority decided Wednesday to investigate more thoroughly whether key safety equipment for one of the nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant sustained damage before the complex was hit by a tsunami in March 2011.

The decision was reached by a panel tasked by the NRA to further study the cause of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster and how it evolved, given differences among accident investigation commissions that looked into the disaster.

A government-appointed commission expressed skepticism in its report that the magnitude 9.0 earthquake on March 11, 2011, by itself caused catastrophic damage to key facilities of the Nos. 1 to 3 reactors that suffered meltdowns.

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