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## Panel views faults at Tohoku Electric nuclear plant as active

TOKYO, Feb. 18, Kyodo

A panel under Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said in a draft report Monday that significant segments of the major geological faults running under Tohoku Electric Power Co.'s atomic power plant site in Aomori Prefecture are likely to be active.

The faults in question are not seen as running directly beneath the sole reactor at the Higashidori complex, but the assessment suggests that the reactor may have to remain offline for quite a while as the utility will need to reassess the plant's quake resistance and take measures to reinforce the facilities.

The draft report, which was a summary of discussions that have taken place among the panel members, also touched on the need to further study other smaller faults that run underneath an area close to the reactor building.

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