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Rat found as cause of power problem at Fukushima plant

TOKYO, March 25, Kyodo

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Monday it has concluded that a rat caused a power supply problem that disabled cooling systems for spent nuclear fuel pools at its crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant last week.

The animal apparently touched a switchboard and triggered a short circuit that led to the power outage from the evening of March 18, the company said. The 25-centimeter-long rat was found dead in the switchboard.

A TEPCO official said the company will take stronger measures to prevent small animals from entering the switchboard.

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